

Easter Exclusive: MSX **Triton review**

AN ARGUS SPECIALIST PUBLICATION

Latest addition to the MSX line-up is the Triton, a 64K computer which is being kept a close secret in the UK.

012116

WEEKLY April 2-8, 1985 No. 106

HOME

And the Triton is a British computer - with an international flavour. Designed and manufactured in Hong Kong by British company Radofin, the micro will be marketed by Eurohard, Spanish parent company of Dragon Data.

The Triton will hit the European scene very soon, according to Radofin sales director Mike Quelch. The machine is now ready for full production, although Radofin will not be marketing the Triton itself.

Ted Opyrchal of Dragon Data commented: "All we have heard so far is that there is a machine in the offing. We will gladly go for the MSX market when the time is right."

No firm release of dates or prices have been revealed yet.

First review The Triton is impressive in both performance and design. Conforming to the MSX standard, it relies on visual and tactile appeal to set it apart from its competitors - and succeeds admirably. Its cream livery and nicely raked keyboard suggest luxurious sophistication and the responsiveness of the keys is remarkable. Most of the competitors' machines are unsuitable for touchtype wordprocessing but this machine is eager to the touch, responding to the slightest pressure. Inclusion of a RGB monitor output ranks this computer alongside the top-of-the-range Sony and JVC machines, but whether this will mean a



Triton MSX-your first glimpse similarly expensive price tag remains to be seen. If not then this is a machine with a big future. Eric Doyle, MSX User

 Radofin is also producing a 2.8-inch drive for the Spectrum and Commodore 64.

The Quick Disc comes complete with a utility disc and tape-to-disc program examples.

HCW will be featuring a full



A'n'F choccy and Chuckie Eggs for 50 lucky winners



First reviews! Mirrorsoft's Spitfire and Amor's MAXAM

Next week

Win a BBC!

review very soon.

Redofin's 2.8-Inch disc drive



Police in Silicon Valley, California are now being trained as hi-tech crimebusters.

And first to be nabbed was a 15-year-old hacker. Computer cops haid a trap within highbrow Stanford University's system, and the young student, who was trying to change his school grades, got nicked.

The Silicon Valley boys in blue attend a 40-hour course where they are taught how to fight computer crime. Illegal electronic devices now mean that you can avoid paying telephone bills, but Californian law prohibits such fraud.

Money is being poured into this area of crimefighting: the course is sponsored by California State at a cost of \$238,000. And other police forces may soon follow suit.

Inside your Easter **Review**-Killer Happy Merlin bolder, adventure for rabbits -Easter brighter, C64, C16 and Database and on the loose from HCW! **VIC-20** etter HCW... Scribe



Has our dapper little thief overstepped the mark this the lime or can be truly outcon the best conmerchants in the business. Dazzled by the bright lights, stunned by the stars, Blagger has decided his way to fame and fortune is in the movies – he's off to nick the next megadrama to hit the big screen. Guide him through 12 loony film sets as he gathers the objects that will open room 13.

Arcade fanatics and Adventure buffs alike. BGTH has something for all – only skill at the joystick and determined brainpower in the unique use of the movie props, will solve this intricate puzzle for you



Each acreen image represents only 1/70th of total playing area.

SECRE

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Alligata Software Ltd. 1 Orange Street Sheffield S1 40V Tet: (0742) 755790 Seed for full color

product bloch in lenciose a stam



In classic movie tradition, simulated 3D and big sound soundtrack with 4 way scrolling action

LIVES



Soapbox

The launch of a spin-off from the television quiz show 3-2-1 is notable for its marketing strategy. 3-2-1 is being advertised on television and sold exclusively by mail order.

In a way this is a step backwards for the software industry. Mail order was initially used by many companies starting out in business. It makes distribution much easier — and cheaper and cuts down on the number of in-between people who take cuts of the cover price. It also means that the manufacturing company can keep a tight hold on stocks and plan production with case.

TV advertising has also been done before — with less than satisfactory results. K-Tel blitzed us all with a heavy promotional campaign — but admitted that it didn't work.

So why this move back in time? Micro Computers states: "It's a new and exciting area of growth and will set trends". Haven't we seen this all before? Where's the innovation? Liz

JILCIALILAION	
Ventures	
Sounds fantastic	
Firmware — Merlin Datascribe	
Basic Conversions	
Welcome to BASIC	

CDECIAL EEATLIDES

SPECTRUM

BBC

Creating larger graphics41

AMSTRAD CPC464

Editor Dove Carlos Deputy Editor Liz Graham Editorial Assistant Marie Curry Software Assistant John Donovan Group Editor Wendy Polmer Design MM Design Copy Control Kerry Fowler Ad Manager Dominic Forlizzi Asst Ad Manager Ian Atkinson Divisional Ad Manager Chris Northam Classified Advertising David Home Publishing Director Peter Welliam Chairman Jim Connell

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Coming Soon...

- Win a BBC computer in our Akhter competition
 Discovery 1 and Panda
- cassette interface peripheral reviews
- Amstract sound feature and adventure program
- Light cycles on the VIC-20
- Don't miss your HCW! Make sure you have a regular order now.







Watch this machine

Spot the Organiser could be the newest game for 1985. Psion's pocket computer will be appearing in the most interesting places.

Marks and Spencer is using the machine in an attempt to cut down on credit card fraud. The plan is for each cash till to have a modified Organiser attached to the credit card machine and as cards are passed over, the number is typed in. The memory is then consulted and if there are any queries about the card concerned the information is displayed.

There will be a distribution of new card numbers each day, which should reduce the time between the loss of a card and its withdrawal from the system.

Another use for the machine has been found by the medical profession. The plug-in memory chips can hold a drug database with details of dosage and side-effects. All the doctor has to do is type in the drug name and the data is scrolled across the screen.

The building trade is using the machine to aid surveyors in their cost estimation on site. The program pack holds all the formulae needed for complex calculations and the internal clock automatically date stamps all the entries.

Lesser mortals will be more interested in a new range of add-ons for the device. The communicator package will enable it to be used to access Telecom Gold and other electronic mail systems. The RS232 connector is plugged into a modem and the communicator allows the setting of all the protocols required.



Psion's Organiser at M and S....



.... Organiser on the building site



One probable use of such a small and simple device is for the profoundly deaf, who will be able to communicate with those at home by telephone in the very near future.

Psion, 22 Dorset Sg. London NWI 6QG

....and G.P.'s Organiser

C16 + 16

Stonechip Electronics claims to have produced the first RAM the machine set into high programs for an expanded C16 pack for the C16, at £34.95. RAM, all of which will be programs - compared with the Stonechip Electronics, Unit 9, available for BASIC since it unexpanded machine's miserly Brook Trading Est, Deadbrook occupies the block 1 area of 2045 bytes.

memory.

resolution graphics, there will as they did for the VIC. The Vixen 16 will have 16K of be over 17K of memory left for

It will be interesting to see if With the pack in place and software houses start writing

Ln, Aldershof, Hants GU12 4XB

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Keyboard conflict

Keyboard makers were in disarray after the announcement of the withdrawal of the Spectrum 48K.

Saga, one such supplier, has announced that the Emperor keyboard is being slashed to 149.95.

The official reason for this change is that it has now sold 10,000 units, but one might be forgiven for suspecting that Sinclair's asking price of £30 for its own conversion is more likely to be the cause.

It looks like the "real" keyboard battle will rage on for a number of months.

Free for the asking

Educational software house, ASK, has been chosen by Thames TV to provide 30 minutes of free software to be broadcast on 19 March at 10-10.30 am and 11-11.30 am on Channel 4.

ASK has put together a collection of screen shots and descriptions from its range of BBC programs for children aged 3-14. The transmission will also include a working sample from ASK's arcade style game, Number Painter-

ASK, London Hse, 68 Upper Richmond Rd, London SW15 2RP

Software update

Those who are interested in the

Discs for Elks

Greater compatibility is one of the features of the new Electron disc interface from Cumana.

Sold without a drive, but with the option of attaching both 31/2 and 51/4-inch units, it gives Electron owners the facility to write discs which can be read by standard BBC disc interfaces.

The system is double density and can give a capacity of 1.8 times the single density equivalent at twice the speed. A real time clock calendar can be used to date stamp the files as they are saved to the disc.

The unit plugs straight into the cartridge slots on the Plus One expansion and the drives are connected by a ribbon cable.

Cumana, Pine Trading Est, Broad St, Guildford, Surrey GU13 3BH

Flashy Moves

Quicksilva is on the move! It seems 1985 is the year the selfstyled game lords will try to conquer London.

The company is moving into the capital on April 1, and will be joing Argus Press Software in Liberty House, Regent Street.

Quicksilva believes that by moving to the city it will be able to communicate more easily with manufacturers, distributors and other contacts,

Quicksilva, Liberty Hse, 222 Regent St, London WIR 7DB

Clubbing up

Computer users in Kent could have a new club very soon.

J Fanning, leader of the Ashford Duncan Bowen Youth Wing is starting a monthly meeting for those interested in using the computers used by club members during the week.

The group aims to give hands-on experience for those new to computing as well as providing a meeting place for seasoned users. Prestel facilities will be available for a small charge.

I Fanning, Duncan Bowen Youth Wing, Kingsnorth Rd, Ashford, Kent TN23 2LY

building to the blueprint provided.

Nuclear war comes to the

Machine

Price Publisher £5.95 Romantic Robot

workings of the human body will enjoy the new game from Quicksilva, Fantastic Voyage. You journey down the blood system of a sick scientist and try to recover parts of a miniaturised submarine in order to make observers and it shows a your escape.

Based on the film of the allowed to occur. same name, the game is "designed to be very hard to sions, Ocean has also finish so players don't become bored too easily", according to Ouicksilva.

Robot is a novelty arcade/maze game and has a bonus game on the second side. At a price of £5.95 it looks good value -HCW's full review will follow SOOD.

If you fancy yourself as a "high stepping, high energy. dance to the music, construction man" then Rock 'n' Bolt should be just your cup of lea. The task is to build a 100-storey

micro, courtesty of PSS, in its Theatre Europe game. PSS claims that the game is based upon accurate information from NATO, the Ministry of Defence and Soviet military situation that must never be

Besides its Amstrad converannounced two new televisionlinked programs. Street Hawk is due out in May and is based The Wriggler from Romantic on a programme to be shown here soon. Later in the year Ocean plans to release a game based on the series Knight Rider.

> Not many educational releases this week, but Time Trucker from ASK looks interesting, as it is meant to teach the relationship between the 12 and 24 hour clocks. Versions are planned for Amstrad and MSX machines too.

Wriggler Eiffel Tower
Rock 'n' Bolt Pete 'n' Barry Fantastic Voyage Mighty Magnus Time Trucker
Super Pipeline II Extended BASIC

Daley Thompson's Dec Kong Strikes Back Hunchback [] French on the Run Index Talisman Chaos Theatre Europe C5 Clive Boardello 321

Spectrum
C64, BBC,
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£24.99	Silversoft
£7.95	Games Workshp
£7.95	Games Workshp
£9.75	PSS
£1.99	Scorpio
E12.95	Bubble Bus
	Micro Computer
\$9.99	Inc



Gem of a prize

The winner of our £200 jewellery voucher, presented by Interceptor Micros, is David Jenkins of Douglas, Isle of Man. Mr Jenkins will be able to spend the voucher in any branch of H Samuel.

The 25 runner-up were: Alistair Brown. Huddersfield; Linda Cook, Lowestoft; Rakesh, Patel, Crawley; Miss C I. Renh. Birmingham; Richard Walker, Dudley; Craig Williams, BFPO 24; M. Starks, Weston-Super-Mare, Brian Buckley, Oldham: E. Wylie, Kirkwall; Don Ramsay, Bradford; Robert Patterson, Telford; Christopher Hirst, Huddersfield; N. Thornton, Presion, Mylers Richardson, Herne Bay, David Wilson, Ash Vale: Tim Prince, Ware; W K Tsang, Hednesford; C Thornton, Malton: Richard Couchman, St Ives: Michael Harman, Withetasea; P A Read Bracknell, T J Cotton, Peterborough; W J Calks, Chelmsford: Tom Lynch, London.

By the way, there were 14 jewels, including the one on the competition page.

More joy

The quality of joysticks is a subject similar to beauty. It's all in the eye, or in this case the hand, of the beholder.

Euromax claims that it's new proportional/analogue series of sticks are as responsive and durable as normal switched sticks.

Jungle beat

If you like hunting for Elephants around the computer shops you could soon be on your way to Africa.

Ten-packs of Elephant floppy discs will include a puzzle card entry coupon for an, African safari competition. There are four trips to be won before 30th June.

So if you fancy a safari, make you way at once to your nearest, Elephant dealer and start beating about the bush.

Elephant, Dennison Mnfing, Colonial Way, Watford, Herts



BBC, Dragon and Einstein computers with the normal switched versions for the Atari. Commodore and Sinclair machines. The company also has a trackball for the Atari at £32.95.

Euromax Electronics, Pinfold Lane, Bridlington, North The range is available for Humberside YOI6 5XR

English prizes

There were 54 correct entries in our English Software competition. The answers to the anagrams were: roast few software; shingle English; u rotten fib fire button; am coin pilot compilation; scrap hip graphics. We apologise if some of you were led astray by the red herring ten u read, which should have been an anagram for adventure, but unfortunately the v was left out. We are giving prizes to those who spotten the deliberate mistake as well as those who left it off.

These are the names of the winners: Edward Pentland, Newcastle upon Tyne; Ken Piller, Saundersfoot; W K Tsang, Hednesford; M Cotton, Ipswich; C G Miller, Kingston Park; Mark Brewer, Chessington; Brian Steele, West Drayton; J Brooks, Weymouth; D Roebuck, Lymington; Paul Cambell, Hobart; David Black, Glasgow; A A Turner, Norwich; P Forbes, Birmingham; Joseph Toomey, London NW5; A Kauczok, Hengoed; Chris Eden, Wakefield' Michael Griffiths, Rochester; R B Miller, Briglinton; Karen Rolph, Heaton; S C Goodrum, Gt Yarmouth; E V Browning, Llanedeyrn; A R Perry, W Bromwich; Paul Serbert, Harrogate: Les Isbister, Biggleswade; Ian Robertson, Sunbury-on-Thames; A F Turner-Howe, Basingstoke; C H Reeves, Freemantle; Neil Tilt, London NW1; M Jones, Spiisby; T Kerr, Canning Town; R McClenaghan, Kirkby; Richard Barnes, Gillingham; Mrs J Froude, Shepperton; Brian Christie, Belfast; Andrew Bisby, Gorton; Graham Butler, Waterlooville; T O'Malley, Blackley; Jim Barton, Beverley; C Crane, Stoke-on-Trent; Mark Buckley, Huddersfield; Graham Pullen, Southwick; D L Wardman, Pudhoe; William Sinclair, Kirk-wall; D Nisbett, Leicester; Daniel Goldsmith, Braintree; P N Grove, Bordon; L R Hambleton, Nottingham; J E Gibson, N Doncaster; A M McKenzie, RAF Bruggen; G White, Rainhill; Christopher Tolley, Basingstoke; A G Kluge, Rugby; M B Lee, Chesterfield; LCPL Gary Macdonald, BFPO 39.

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AWBLE

If you crack our code then you could soon be cracking an Easter egg — and A 'n' F's Chuckie Egg 2

week has a real Easter flavour to it. If you aren't fed up with chocolate eggs yet then you'll really enjoy the prizes we're offering.

There will be 50 winners who will each receive a copy of A 'n' F's new program, Chuckie Egg 2 for the Spectrum (subtitled Choccy Egg) which costs £6.95. To add to the Easter flavour of the competition all the winners

ur competition this | egg and be eligible to enter A 'n' F's £1800 Chuckie Egg 2 competition.

SPECTRUM 48K

Chucky Egg 2 features the hero Hen House Harry whose job is to get the Easter Egg factory running smoothly. He must mix together the ingredients for the eggs and find the parts for the little toys which go inside them. There are 120 screens and, according to A 'n' F, it is a true arcade/adventure



How to enter

To have a chance of winning a prize you'll need to crack a code not an egg. Study the code sentence on this page and look carefully at the clue word we've deciphered for you. This should enable you to work out the meaning of the whole sentence.

Write your solution in the space provided on the entry coupon. Complete the coupon clearly and fully - if you are a winner it will be used as a label for your prize. Send the coupon to us.

important: write your solution on the back of your envelope.

Send your entry to: Choccy Egg Competition, Home Computing Weekly, No. 1 Golden Square, London WIR 3AB. Closing date is first post on Friday 12th April, 1985.

You may enter as many times as you wish, but each entry must be on an official entry coupon - not a copy - and seated in a separate envelope.

Prizes will arrive from A 'n' F within 28 days of the publication of the issue containing the results of the competition.

Code breaker

FN BQZBJ Z BGTBJHD DFF

Here's your clue word: **DZQRDP** means Easter



If you haven't got a Spectrum, enter anyway to get your egg. You'll need to think quite hard to solve the puzzle we've set this week so, if you're not counting calories, read on to find out what you have to do!	The rules Intries will not be accepted from employees of Argus Specialist Publica- tions, A n' F Software, and Alabaster Passmore & Sons. This restriction also applies to employees' families and agents of the companies. The How to Enter section forms part of the rules.
Choccy Egg Entry	Competition Coupon
post post My solution to the code senter	code

Complete clearly and fully - if you are a winner this coupon will act as a label for your prize, Poul to Chexes Egg Competition, Home Computing Weekly, No. I Golden Square, London WIR 3AB. Clouing date: first post, Friday 12th April, 1985. Don't forget to follow closely the advice in the How to Enter section and write your solution on the outside of

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Week Ending March 19, 1985

Up and Coming

Still at number one - Soft Aid by various artists. US Gold is still maintaining a high profile with three games in the top 20.

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There are two new entries from Mastertronic - Chiller and Finders Keepers. Chiller has been around for some time and this isn't the first time it's reached the top 20. Mastertronic has a total of five software games in the top 50 - not bad for low budget software.

At the top of the specialist charts, Soft Aid heads both Spectrum and C64, while Micro Power's Castle Quest is top of the BBC chart. Elite is still prominent at number three in the BBC chart. This is its 24th week in the chart.

Joint longest runners in the general chart are Addictive Game's Football Manager, Ocean's Daley Thompson's Decathlon, Anirog's Flight Path 737, and US Gold's

5 A	TITLE	PUBLISHER	24 m	\$ 1	1 12	1	alle	100	10		
1	Soft Aid	Warkense		٠							
2	Bruce Lee	US Gold		•					•		Ì
	Football Manager	Addictive Gemes		•	٠	•				•	
	Raid over Moscow	UTE Grand		٠							
5	Moon Cresta	Incentive									
6	Pole Position	Atari		٠	٠	٠			٠		
7	Impossible Mission	CØ3		٠							
8	Ghostbusters	Activision		٠					٠		
9	Everyone's A Wally	Mikro-Gen									
10	Booty	Firebird									1
11	Air Wolf	Élico	٠	٠							
12	Chiller	Massertrom		•							
13	Jet Set Willy	Saftware Projects	٠	٠				٠		٠	
14	Daley Thompson Decathlon	Down		•							
15	Alien 8	Ultimate									
16	Sorcery	Virgin		٠				٠		•	
17	Finders Keepers	Masterromic	٠								
18	Zaxaon	US Geld	•	٠	٠				٠	•	
19	Starstrike	Restime									
20	Combat Lynx	Durell						٠			

SOFTWARE

Beach-Head. All clock in at 26 weeks.

Highest new entry is Incentive's Moon Cresta, which comes in at number five, and is available on the Spectrum.





Ehte



۲.	Various
2	Impossible Mission CBS
3	Pole Position US Gold
•	Ghostbusters
۰.	Rocket Ball Centresofs
۰.	Football Manager Addictive Genes
۲.	Booty
•	Masterbonic
9	Buck Rogers
10	Raid over Moscow

Compiled by Gallup

Compiled by Gallup for the industry's weekly trade magazine. Computer and Software Retailing For details contact John Sorrenti, Computer and Software Retailing, No. 1 Golden Square, London W1R 3AB. 01-437-0626

Delve into the murky depths of Macbeth, The Sandman Cometh and The Prince. Peter Sweasey muses on these three adventures

CREATIVE SPARKS

Enter. my dark, damp and dingy dungeons of your own free will... but be warned, for you may never return. The trap is set, by Ventures, HCW's weekly column dealing with the world of adventures and arcventures (arcade adventures, for those poor souls who have never read this before). This week I shall be looking at Macbeth from Creative Sparks, The Sandman Cometh from Star Dreams and The Prince from CCs, and I'll be giving far too generous hints for Return To Eden and Danger Mouse in Black Forest Chateau, read on... if you dare!

castle one night. She also faces domestic problems, such as preparing tea for the tired monarch, or arranging where people will sleep, all in a 60-minute time limit.

The third game is mainly graphics: you must help the three witches collect the ingredients to make the cauldron bubble. In adventure four, a mainly text game, you must protect your castle from the marauding hordes. You are alone, without even your wife to help you, and must avoid a spreading fire, in a time limit. If you complete the final game, and have worked out the correct code from the others. you can rewrite the original, and become king. The authors are right: it is an excellent theme for an adventure. On the whole it is well developed, with plenty of puzzles to be pondered over, and many battles to be fought. Graphics are excellent throughout, very colourful, with limited animation. There are sound effects too, like a screeching cat or creaking door.

program understands very little: for example, to pass through a certain door I tried forward, go, pass, through, in, enter, etc., until eventually discovering go forward. Annoyingly, the computer highlights the offending word in red, rather than telling you what it does not understand. The screen blanks when a command is typed in, making it necessary to type LOOK almost every other move. No abbreviations are accepted_ Despite these flaws, Macbeth is still a veyr good game. The text is packed with quotes, and a copy of the play is enclosed, which can help a lot in education. People taking English literature examinations may find it helpful particularly the psychoanalyst ventures rating of ****. It costs £14.95 from Creative Sparks. 'To sleep, perchance to dream ... ' Why do computer programmers suddenly think they are so clever? The booklet to The Sandman Cometh implies that the game is a whole way of life, of thinking and learning. It also states that the game is 'very different from any other adventure you're ever likely to see'. Not a point 1 agree with, but more of that

THE PRINCE

FOUR PLAYER ADVENTURE GAME

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NALK

Reviews

'Double, double, toil and trouble; fire burn, and cauldron bubble.' Culture meets computer in Macbeth, an adventure for the C64. This adaptation of Shakespeare's classic comes as four separate programs.

In the first, a text graphic game, you play Macbeth, and must face Scotland's enemies (a nasty lot they are too!). The second, text only game, has you as Lady Macbeth, arranging the king's death as he stays at her fault — the vocabulary. This later.

However, there is one major

The basic task is to answer a question which will be asked by the Sandman. He is a mysterious figure who wanders around the land of our dreams: a never-never world where nightmare is reality, and anything can happen. The player must find clues to the answer.

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Unfortunately, a potentially very good and original scenario has not been well implemented. It is a graphical adventure with sparse and boring text. The graphics are slow to build and not very inspiring, also rather small. The different locations, which could be so varied, are dull and stereotyped: there's a fairground, a western town, the middle ages and a James Bond type. So much for being totally different. In it's favour, the game has good sound, but worse is to come.

The vocabulary is useless. There are 34 verbs! I spent a good half-hour trying to unlock a door. Unlock is not accepted, neither is insert brass key. The very is use - a real cop-out in any game. Response times are slow, and after each loading the player must sit through a filmstyle credit sequence - mind numbingly boring to all but the programmers.

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The Sandman Cometh is a potentially brilliant idea, spoilt by incompetent development. It has an amateur feeling to it. Ventures rating ** - poor. The Sandman Cometh costs £9.95 for the Spectrum, from Star Dreams...



Helpline

R

Firstly, Dangermouse In Black Forest Chateau, a game I shall be reviewing fully next week. For people in part one, the following hints are courtesy of Nick Windsor, Surrey. Vampires bugging you? The cat likes coloured fish -- then you can get the right liquid from the garden, providing you have the bucket, Gorillas are ticklish --and Venus mouse traps need a switch in temperature. The skeleton key unlocks the obvious - but are you barking up the right tree?

Now Return To Eden, If you don't want to cheat, stop reading now! Feeling weak? Eat the bean at the bend in the path. The peculiar shaped egg needs planting - use your spade. Can't cross the river? You need some tubers, and the stem. If the leviathan blocks your way, give it what you found in the houseplant. You will need the water log - squeeze it on the island, over the bulb. The shoot will come in handy. To climb a tree, sling a vine. But can you tame the ants, or amaze the maize by escaping the maze? More on that soon.

The third part of our stunning Technician Ted Map is published here. Only one section more to go: look out for more maps soon. Next week 1 shall be looking at some of the best — and worst — products released recently. Happy venturing

Finally this week, The Prince from CCS. This was winner of The Cambridge Award for 1984. I reviewed the dreadful 1942 Mission, the runner-up, some time ago. Happily, The Prince is better.

The lore master is dead. Four members of the royal court, Fernando, Porcus, Ambrose and Grasper, wish to take over the job. To do this they must find the tokens within the castle, then present them to the Prince. This involves, amongst traditional venturing skills: trading, bribery, blackmail, thuggery and stealing.

The unusual thing about this game is that it requires four players. Each player takes on one of the previously mentioned characters and relevant personality. The players take it in turn to use the keyboard. Whilst one is working there for a limited time, the other three can form alliances or perform

the actions mentioned above, in true Dungeons and Dragons style. The computer acts as notebook, referee, and someone to describe your location. Each player has a computer-controlled henchman and spy, which can be told to hit other computer characters who may be working for other human characters. The humans also have a banker and trader at their disposal.

There are some excellent graphics of the characters, and sound and text are well thought out and atmospheric. The vocabulary is a bit small, but otherwise this is flawless. The game is incredibly complex. If you are a D&D fan, you will love this. Other people will too, if they can understand it fully, and can find four people with a day to spare. Ventures rating exee - it costs £7.95 for Spectrum.



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Here are some screens from a typical flight showing the view from the cockpit (top half of screen) produced as printouts of the actual simulator.

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A real time simulation with 3D graphics uses a massive 64000 x 64000 longitude & latitude flying area, making each flight completely different. Developed under pilot instruction to give realistic flight effect. The view through the cockpit gives moving 3D graphics.

Comprehensive instrument panel with moving needle meters & digital displays. 15 aircraft types with varying control sensitivities & speeds of between 100 - 500 knots.

3 runways available for refuelling, take off & landing. Ground and landmark orientation correct with all flying attitudes (rolls etc.).

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M

Get to grips with the full capabilities of your Amstrad CPC464 in the first of a regular series written by Clive Gifford

ΞA

FANDSTIC



The Amstrad has powerful sound capabilities but these are difficult to get to grips with and can be confusing to the beginner. In this series of articles, I hope to make your task of using the sound facilities a lot easier.

Simple sounds and sound effects can be achieved without any difficulty just by using the SOUND command. After the command, you can follow up to four numbers for a simple sound, (i.e. one that isn't using defined envelopes), as shown below.

SOUND Channel Number, Pitch, Duration, Volume

Let's deal with each of these parameters in turn. The channel number can be between 1 and 7 and allows the CPC464 to select just one of the three available sound channels or to play more than one simultaneously, thus creating the Amstrad's famous stereo sound. The pitch determines the tone of the note and can be a number from 1 to 4000, though for most purposes the range is between 50 and 1000

The duration is the length of

10 FOR T=400 TO 10 STEP-1 20 SOUND 1,T,1,7 30 NEXT 40 FOR T=10 TO 400 50 SOUND 1,T,1,7 60 NEXT

A simple siren or alarm can be created just by repeating two notes, the first of which is slightly higher than the second.

10	FOR T=1 TO 12
20	SOUND 1,90
30	SOUND 1,110
40	NEXT T

The different sound channels can be played together giving a 'thicker' note — a note with more depth to it. A far more interesting way of using the three channels is to have each channel playing a note simultaneously but with each note at a slightly different pitch. This gives a phased sound as the routine below demonstrates.



If, for example, the ENT statement was ENT 1,20,3,5, then the result would be a fall in pitch of three for each of the 20 steps with the overall duration of the envelope being 20 steps times one-twentieth of a second, in other words, one second

Once you have created an envelope, you must obviously give it a sound to work with. Several additions have to be made to the SOUND statement that we have used so far. A SOUND statement utilising a tone envelope would look

18 FOR T=300 TO B0 STEP-10 28 SOUND 1, T: SOUND 2, T+3: SOUND 3, T-3 30 NEXT

Try experimenting with varying differences between the notes. The routine above uses a difference of three: try five or six and also experiment with different durations of notes.

There is a limit on the range, and realism of simple-single channel sounds. To create more complex sounds from explosions to unitations of musical instruments, one needs to use tone and volume envelopes which shape the sound. something like this: SOUND 1, 200,100,7,0,1. The sixth number specifies which tone envelope is required while the fifth number is concerned with the volume envelope and at the moment should be set to nought as we are not dealing with volume envelopes.

There are two cautionary notes to mention when dealing with these commands. Firstly, make sure that your sound lasts long enough for the envelope to work (an envelope lasting a total of two seconds would be cut sharply if it was being used on a note lasting just one second). Secondly, when using ENT make sure that the change in pitch is within the capabilities of your SOUND statement, A change in patch of -80 on a note with an original pitch of 60 won't result in the sound that you intended but instead a lowpitched raspberry. ENT in this present form is very useful in replacing a FOR/NEXT loop for a constantly rising or falling tone. In addition, you have more control over the length of each note. The line below produces the same effect as the first three. lines of the first routine in this article. Next time, we'll continue the discussion on ENT and use ENV to create some useful sounds and effects to include within your own programs.



the note in one-hundredths of a second and the volume level is between 0 and 15. However, when dealing with simple sounds without envelopes, the volume range is restricted to between 0 and 7. When an envelope is used, there is a need for a greater volume range and then a number between 0 and 15 can be used.

A simple note would look something like this SOUND 1,100,50,4. The example note being played on channel 1 is a high pitched note of medium volume lasting for half a second.

One can experiment with simple sound and get some interesting and worthwhile effects. By using a FOR/NEXT loop, it is possible to change the pitch of a note by one unit each pass of the loop. This gives the effect of a sweeping sound: the example below demonstrates this. The Amstrad has two commands, ENT and ENV which stand for Tone Envelope and Volume Envelope respectively. Let's firstly deal with ENT.

ENT allows you to alter the tone of a sound throughout the playing of that sound. ENT is firstly followed by an envelope number. This is simply a numbered tag so that the sound command can specify which envelope it requires if a program contains a number of envelopes.

After this envelope number comes a group of parameters which determine the rise or fall in the pitch of the sound. This group consists of three figures: the number of steps in the tone change; the size of each step (this can be a positive or negative number corresponding to a fall or rise); the duration, in one-hundredths of a second, of each step.

BFAFKBAREKBR

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Bug-Eyes

From beginning to end this is the best planned, designed and executed program yet to be seen. by this reviewer. The introductory screen has instructions scrolling across the centre while lines scroll towards you in the bottom half. There are samples of each of the 10 screens - very good for reviewers! There are some similarities to Manic Miner, with good, smooth graphics, effective sound and steady scrolling. Each screen is totally different in design, though the basic idea is the same. You try to reach the Generating Room and destroy the power generator of the Xxabancans' starship. The Xxabaneans — the Bug-Eyes are trying to destroy all intelligent life in the Universe.

in your spacesuit, you enter Screen 1 and try to avoid the nine Stamping Stompers, which are pistons moving out of synchronisation and at different speeds. If you make it to the bottom the next, more difficult, screen is reached. It has Blinking Bouncers, that squash, and bridges that come and go Each successive screen gets increasingly more difficult. There are Lazer Blazers, lasers and spiders, Whizzing Walkways, six moving bridges, Plummeting Platform and finally the Generating Room with moving portcullises, conveyor belt and Blinking Bouncers. A colourful, enjoyable, addictive arcade adventure game that all games people should own. **T.W.**

Maxam

This Z80 development system is the first expansion ROM available for the Amstrad CPC464, and Arnor are to be congratulated on a superb job.

The 16K ROM comes on a small circuit board which plugs into the expansion port (most of the board goes *inside* the computer): a through-connector allows other boards and the disc drive to be fitted, and a third connector caters for future ROMs from Arnor.

MAXAM contains a versatile Z80 assembler, monitor and a simple but useful text editor. Between them, they provide all the tools you need to write, develop and debug machine code programs, either alone or mixed with BASIC.

Assembler source code may be typed in using the text editor (no line numbers are required). or you can mix assembler with BASIC in a similar way to BBC BASIC. In this case the source code must be in REM statements since extension ROMs cannot alter the way BASIC interprets the program, and syntax errors would occur if the source wasn't "hidden" Extra assembly directives are provided to pass variable values and addresses between BASIC and assembler in mixed applications. All the other standard directives to be substituted - BYTE, WORD and TEXT for DEFB, DEFW and DEFM, for example. The monitor allows any part of RAM and ROM (including expansion ROMs, but not MAXAM itself!) to be disassembled to screen or printer, or simply listed in hex or ASCII format. RAM contents can be altered just by overlyping on the screen display. Blocks of memory can be moved intelligently (i.e.

partial overlaps are permissable), or relocated to run at new addresses.

One debugging tool not included is single-stepping through a machine code program, but there is a way round this. Breakpoints may be set freely in the code simply by typing BRK as a directive in the source listing (a breakpoint halts a machine code program and displays the registers on screen, continuing once you've examined the contents). To single-step, you could insert BRKs after every op-code in the block in question. String search facilities allow a check to ensure you'd taken them all out after debugging.

Useful external commands include IHELP to identify all expansion ROMs fitted, ROM numbers, and the external commands provided by a particular ROM. IROMOFF resets the machine without initializing any expansion ROMs, which allows some fussy types of cassette software to be run without problems. This is definitely the best editor/assembler for the Amstrad — I can highly recommend it. If the ROM version is too expensive for you, disc and cassette versions are also available at £13.50 and £26.90, with slightly fewer features.

Price: £6 95

Publisher: Icon Software

Address: 65 High Street, Gosforth, Tyne & Wear



Price: £59-90

Publisher: Arnor Ltd

Address: PO Box 619, London SE25 6JL



Spitfire '40

Real time flight simulators often require the skills of an ace and the appendages of an octopus. This is no exception to the rule but at least it gives you two practice modes to develop your skills and manual dexterity.

The scenario for this simulator takes you back to the Summer of 1940 and an airfield somewhere in the South East of England. You have just been assigned to fly with a Spitfire squadron and as your experience increases so will your flight log and decorations.

This is the nice part about this simulator, as you fly each mission to locate and defeat the enemy are on your tail. Enemy bullets striking home are indicated by sound and the flickering of the border colour surrounding the screen

In practice I found the Spitfire to be extremely responsive to the controls and spent much of my early flight practice in an inverted position due to an extremely steep climb which resulted in a loop, generally followed by panic as the ground started to loom up towards me. Eventually, thanks to the detailed instruction manual, I managed to iron out these problems

During combat practice I soon discovered how to avoid attackers but found that hitting them was very difficult and in the combat mode, which is the main program mode, I...well let me put it this way, if they had left the Battle of Britain to me we'd all be eating sauerkraut and wearing leiderhosen Bandits at one o'clock? Certainly not, it's a bargain at any price. Never have so few given so much to so many The Hacker

克法君田君

BOL VICOC B

THE HACKER

Have you ever wondered what computer designers dream about? Now is your chance to find out. Hacker must be based upon a computer designer's nightmare. The adventurer, Hacker, finds his way into a telephone network, through a modem and is lost inside the circuit of a computer.

After listening to an excellent and entertaining rendering of a tune played in the siyle of a steam organ, Hacker is launched into the first part of his journey. There are a total of 12 different screens and to pass from one to the other, he must retrieve five floppy discs whilst dodging tramping ICs and other moving "bits." One interesting feature allows a player to preview and try each of the 12 screens. This is a boon to me because I normally never get to see what the final stages of a game look like.

However, to play and obtain a score, you must progress through the game sequentially and collect each of the discs before moving on. There are only three controls for moving Hacker round the screen but it takes time to learn the different techniques necessary to make certain moves; rather like an adventure game. You shouldn't get bored, but remember that Hacker only has three lives to do battle with all the dangers. There are no screen instructions, but there are high score and pause facilities. It's an interesting game as long as it doesn't give you nightmares J.D.



enemy, your flight log can then be brought up to date and saved to disc ready for flight another day. Eventually, you may even achieve the rank of Group Captain with a coveted VC.

The program has three basic screens: the control panel, the view from the cockpit window and a plan view showing your plane, the enemy and your position over the South East Region.

The cockpit view is a very realistic representation of a Spitfire, with a few dials and lights added to compensate the lack of controls which would normally take the form of levers or pedals.

The cockpit view is unspectacular except when engaged in combat. Suddenly there are planes of all colours flying at you from every conceivable angle. The forward view is complemented by a small mirror which shows if the Price: £9.95 cassette, £12.95 disc

Publisher: Mirrorsoft

Address: Holborn Circus, London ECIP 1DQ



Price: £2 50

Publisher: Firebird Software

Address: Wellington Hsc. Upper St Martin's Lane, London WC2H 9DL



Island of Xaan

Sentenced to jail "until you rot" for the terrible crime of stealing the kings' water, you find yourself in a small dimly ht prison cell. Yes, Island of Xaan is an adventure game and in the classic style, text only.

Your object is to escape, amass treasure, find a disguise and leave the island on a convenient ship. All this is easier said than done, as one might expect.

The game follows the same format as the Level 9 and Acornsoft classics. However, there are one or two exceptions. Firstly, there is more violence than usual and strangling guards comes hard to someone more accustomed to the likes of Philosophers' Quest!

Secondly, there are one of two Fatal mistakes. For example if you neglect to search the dead guard before leaving the cell, the door slams shut and you then can't go through the maze since you haven't got a compass. This leaves you no option but to guit. I think games should be logical and never leave you in an impossible position. At £7 95, Island of Xaan is cheaper than most and is supplied with an adventurers' notebook and SOS card. The instructions are short. but they only spoil the fun anyway, and everything you need is explained whilst the program loads. As a first offering, Xaan is quite good but will someone please tell me how to pass the sleeping goard — the only help 1 get is "Write to Altee"! J.G.D.

Masterfile 464

Masterfile 464 is a very clever piece of work. It consists of a tiny BASIC loader which precedes 10K of machine code and both are easily transferred to disc. When loaded, it allows you to wield immense power without having to understand a thing about computer programming. In effect, your 464 becomes an enormous f ing system capable of handling anything you care to enter.

It could be names, addresses and phone numbers, a catalogue of parts, their locations, costs and suppliers' names and addresses, or your record collection. It might be sales information, product details, or a selection of recipes, together with suggested wines! In other words, anything which constitutes a sophisticated list of items.

Using a series of on-screen menus, you are taken gently through the stages of setting the system up. Before this, you should have worked out the structure you need, for example, cach record of a name and address file will need a separate field for name, street number and name, area name, post town, post code. It's important to do this because later you will be able to sort you list by each of these fields. Having set up this structure, you must then decide how you want it displayed or printed You would probably want the above example in the form of a straightforward on-screen list, and also as address labels for your printer. If however, your list was more demanding, for example, details of products sold to the people on your list, you can then set up a series of "child" files, giving these details separately. When all the information is entered, the power of the system is further revealed. You can now sort the data based on any of its attributes; either alphabetically or numerically, in ascending or descending order. You can select records by attribute, for example all the people in Staffordshire on your list, who have bought products A and B, in the twinkling of an eye.

The particular beauty of the system is its flexibility. If you want to add new criteria to existing files it is easily done. You don't have to start again. If you think of a new use for the program, then all you need to do is load it and configure a new series of files. The possibilities seem endless.

There are limitations, however. The whole file is held in | RAM, thus the use of disc drive memory is not possible. This limits your address file to about 600 records. Similarly, you can only have two related generations of records, so you must design your structure to take this into account. Whilst the accompanying example files and manual are good, and very detailed, it would have been helpful to have step-by-step instructions in the manual showing how different file structures can be achieved. You'll need to study carefully. By home computer standards, this isn't a cheap package. It is worth it? Undoubtedly yes! If time is money, and you want to use your Amstrad with an easily interrogated database, Masterfile 464 is the package for you. **D.M**.

Interdictor Pilot

in true Star Trek tradition this program puts you in the pilot's seat of a super galactic spaceship.

Thankfully the handbook is one of the best I have seen for this sort of simulation; the complexities involved in flying this craft, your Interdictor Mk III, are considerable.

The time it takes to assimilate the 48 pages of information, depends on your learning ability

Starting with a dummy run, using the slow motion option, and given enough practice, you may get to fly a successful mission, and achieve a perfect docking with the Starbase.

On the other hand, it may be just too complicated for you, unless you are determined to see some return for your considerable investment.

Superb graphics and sound add enormously to the reality of the project. The panoramic view through the cockpit window is realistic, with good 3-D implementation as the alien craft zoom towards you.

You can use 40 of the keys and the joystick to control the interdictor, though thankfully, not all at the same time

Here lies my one critisism: some of the keys are only effective under certain operating conditions. Aithough these parameters are all covered adequately in the handbook, it took a lot of effort to commu them to memory. With this number of input channels, a keyboard overlay would make the learning process much less arduous. Fastidious attention to detail in this well written program will provide acons of entertainment for armchair astronauts. D.H.

Price: £7.95

Publisher: Robico

Address: 3 Fairland Cl, Llantrisant, Gwent Price: £24.95

Publisher: Amsoft

Address: 169 Kings Rd, Breniwood, Essex CM14 4EF



Price: £17.95

Publisher: Supersoft

Address: 91 Manor Rd, Higham Hill, London E17 5RY



This program has a bug in it.

According to the information on the cassette inlay, there are more than 1000 rooms for you to visit

Survivor is a chase game in which you play the part of Angus. A variety of evillooking ghouls chase you through a maze of rooms set on seven levels.

These nasties sap your energy whenever you bump into them. Retaliation is effected by shooting them or thowing a porcupine bomb at them

The supply of bullets can be replenished by finding the arsenals depicted as small arms in the maze. You get energy by going over the necessary bottles containing varying amounts of elixit

The challenge is to collect up all the bombs which are scattered throughout the maze Each higher level contains more bombs.

Locating the occasional signpost gives some indication of the general direction to be taken

The chunky graphics leave a lot to be desired and the impression is that a lot of this program is written in BASIC. This is just not fast enough to handle moving graphics adequately, making the game no



This game, up to now available on the Spectrum only, has now been converted for the C64 Whilst I have only seen static pictures of the original, this appears graphically to be a faithful reproduction. To use current jargon, this graphical adventure is a sort of computer movie. You play the role of the hero Cochulainn who is searching for the fragments of the seal of Calum

To fulfil this quest you must search a huge area of land containing a number of different scenarios and problems. The size of the area is formidable and will take many hours to explore. From time to time objects and other characters are encountered, each having a role in the game.

On screen you have a constant view of our hero and his immediate surroundings. Pressing the relevant button moves him left or right with the background scrolling accordingly. Movement in the four cardinal directions is facilitated by altering the "camera" angle.

The strong point of this game is the animation of all characters. The main figure is huge and movement is intricate. The other characters are equally well drawn. Overall, the graphics are of the highest standard Overall this is a highly testing game which is a delight to play. The vastness and complexity of the scenario is sufficient to ensure that you don't become bored. The accompanying instructions are detailed and supplement the game well. At the price — the same as the Spectrum version --- it's destined to be a winner. A.W.

Assembler Monitor 64

For anyone wishing to undertake a significant piece of machine code, a good quality assembler is vital. This package is a newcomer aimed at this section of the market. This assembler/monitor package rejoices under the nameof a 6510 MACRO Assembler Development Package. I'm not quite sure what that means, but it sounds good

For the uninitiated, an assembler is a program which will convert a source code make up of easily intelligible mnemonics into the numeric object code which the machine understands.

The on-board editor is used to create the source code and all normal disc storage commands are available. The format is standard and easy to use. The main useful feature of this sori of package is the provision for pseudo op-codes and labelled variables and loops. To handle these, this assembler uses two passes

in addition to the normal pseudo op-codes such as .BYTE, .ASC, .WORD and AYM, there are some rather handy facilities. The output of the assembler is controlled by OPT. This is a particularly powerful command which enables you to output the object code to disc or, if you're testing it, to RAM. This code also allows the output of the assembly listing to screen or printer. If you want to store floating point constants in the usual five byte format, .FLP will do this One of the more bizarre and, if you know the system well enough, useful commands is SYS. This transfers control to your own machine code routine on each pass, allowing the use of custom output routines etc. The best of the bunch has got to be the provision of macros via a .MAC and .MEND opcodes. A macro is a frequently used block of code which can be inserted at any point of the source code but need only be written once. It can be used

with passed parameters — a bit like a procedure — and is powerful and helps to make the source code more intelligible.

Since the assembler resides in the machine, only 30K is available for source code. Long codes can be assembled, however, by using hinked files on disc.

The second part of the package is a machine code monitor. This sits in the area between the ROMs and can therefore cohabitate with the assembler. The monitor is provided as a debugging tool and general utility. The format is nearly the same as most standard monitors and provides commands for SAVEing, LOADing, display memory, single step, break points, disassemble etc

One mcc touch is that the display register command gives the details of the individual bits of the sistus register. I noted pecuhar behaviour if BRK was encountered. After entering the monitor, the single step command would not function correctly and it was necessary to leave the monitor and re-enter with a "CALL". On the whole, I found this package both powerful and efficient. The need for special loaders has been avoided by ensuring that object code assembled to disc is directly loadable. This ensures a simple system. In terms of power, this package is comparable to others but costs less. The manual, translated from German was fair, although occasionally obscure. Overall, worth serious consideration. A.W.

real chal	llenge	lo	ardent	joy	stick
jostlers	_				

The aforementioned bug rears its ugly head to tell you that it has met an "unexpected return in 1000" Overcoming this means reloading the program, thus all you highscore features are lost.

The game can be played using either the keyboard or the joystick.

However, the bug makes it a waste of money at any price.

Price: £7.95

Publisher: Amrog Software Ltd

Address: Unit 10, Victoria Ind. Park, Victoria Rd, Dartford, Kent



Price: £9 95

Publisher: Gargovle

Address: 74 King St, Dudley, West Midlands



Price: £19.99

Publisher: First Publishing

Address: Unit 20B, Horseshoe Rd, Horseshoe Park, Pangbourne, Berks



ENTRIES

TER OFFICE

Everyone's a Wally

Whilst impresed with the graphics used in Pyjamarama, I found the plot far from original. Now here's a game worthy of them. It's a combination of arcade/adventure/ strategy ploys featuring Wally, his friends Wilma, Tom, Dick and Harry in their quest to earn a not-too honest shekel¹

Littered around the superbly depicted town are a number of things which need mending like a brick wall, a fountain, etc, together with the things to mend them. Controlling Wally, you must find the items you need. If, however, the task needs the skills of Harry the plumber, then you must find him, and take control of him instead

When the job is complete, money is deposited in the safe in the bank. As you complete the tasks, you are able to acquire the combination to the safe and finally grab the loot. Don't be fooled, it's not easy! Herbert the baby gets in the way, your characters have to eat and drink, and all sorts of lunatic things launch themselves at the characters in the arcade

Frankenstein 2000

This game is described as an arcade adventure and from the loading time you have a fair indication of the amount of detail you can expect.

During the loading there is a nuce gothic title which may lead you to expect something of the old Mary Shelley original. Not so. Whilst still loading you get an interesting split-screen picture of the human internal organs in full glorious technicolour. A couple of horizontal bars indicate oxygen and damage.

My pre-release copy did not contain any detailed instructions other than keyboard controls but it is hoped that some additional documenttation will be provided. There was no explanation of the objectic of description of the scene but you can work it out as you go.

When loading is complete the left-hand side of the screen has you in a mini-submarine travelling downwards through the trachea (that's the windpipe!). Coming upwards are some form of blobs which could be various antibodies and which you can destroy with torpedoes. Touch them or the sides of the trachea and you sustain damage

Meanwhile your journey is recorded on the body to the right with a flashing cursor. If you complete a stage you move on into the lung, meeting white

Myrddin Flight Simulator

AMASTRAD CPC 464

Dingbat is an American colloquialism for anything from a baseball to a Saturn rochet, just so long as it flies.

in this program your dingbat comes with 16 levels of difficulty for you to tackle Strictly for fun, this is a flight simulation, but decidedly more down to earth than some

No need to flap when you open the instruction booklei either. Prop up the map, open the throttles, release the brakes, raise the flaps and fly away.

The switches and dials built into this Y-model crate are clear and functional, without any luxury refinements, like radio or television.

Airborne contortionists just fly this thrilljerker from the feel of the controls. These are either partly keyboard and joystick, or if yours is the Mk I model then just use the keyboard

As an aid to fledgling fliers a cheat key allows instand course changes of 180 degrees, letting you terminate your life in front of the loved ones which have just seen you off.

Should you actually make a



Brawn Freel

You might be forgiven for thinking that this had something to do with lions. It hasn't, but as no instructions were sent, I had to wait to find out that this is an all-text adventure, written in BASIC I suspect, which casts you as a none too bright relative of a Rochdale educated cavalry officer in the old west, with the task of finding a bottle of patent medicine for your granny!

Three on-screen windows give you descriptions, ask for instructions, and handle your input. Don't let the fact that it's in BASIC put you off, it's very quick. At various points, notably whilst reading the instructions, you are treated to a *tour de force* of sound — well almost. It's obviously an attempt at tin whistle and snare drum, which is quite good, with the exception of its timing. Rather Dave Brubeck'

Aside from the price, the great attraction here is the humour. Being a corn-ball, 1 loved it! Example? "You see a group of 50 tin starred cats"!

sequences with the intention of killing them off. There's an awful lot to keep you quiet. Animation, sound and graphics are outstanding Mikro-Gen has decided to go for full colour. This causes background colour changes in a hmited area of the screen, but it's not very distracting. An excellent game, but expensive. Why not a standard cassette box, no free music track, and a £5.95 price tag? Any response, Mikro Gen? D.M.	corpuscies and so on. It was an interesting game initially, with well designed graphics, but failed to sustain that interest. I could find no way of repairing the damage — perhaps there's something I've missed — and never lasted further than the lung. Incidentally if this sounds familiar then it's because it's remarkably like a film called hantastic Voyage, made in 1966. Could this be a clue to the journey? A new twist to zapping aliens. M.P.	safe landing, re-fueling is followed by another sortie and another chance to self-destruct. Back down to earth, it must be said that the landmarks viewed through the forward cockpit window are few and far between. The infantile graphics detract from an otherwise enjoyable trip Though not to be confused with serious aeronautics, this program is a lot of fun and will keep you at it for hours. Not recommended for anyone with a serious heart condition, D.H.	Examine cats: "Don't worry, they're harmless posse cats'", and more of the same. I also hke the fact that I wasn't killed off in the first few seconds, though to tell the truth, after a considerable time, I still badn't encountered another human being, though I did collect a few more John Wayne jokes, a plank and some other bits. Probably not for the ad- venture nuts, but an amusing starter at an amazing price. D M.
Price: £9 95	Price: £7.95	Price: £11.95	Price: £2
Publisher: Mikro-Gen	Publisher: Icon	Publisher: Myrddin	Publisher: Nemesis
Address: 44 The Broadway, Bracknell, Berks	Address: 65 High St, Gosforth, Tyne and Wear	Address: PO Box 61, Swindon, Willis	Address: 10 Carlow Rd. Ringstead, Northants NN14 4DW
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BACK TO BASICS

In part four of our Spectrum programming series Colin Wilton-Davies upgrades his Spectrum and explains the use of printing control characters

Since writing the third part of this series, I have speni £20 on a kit from Sinclair to upgrade my Spectrum to a Spectrum +. My machine was a Spectrum 3B, I discovered when I opened the case, and perhaps because of this, I only had two points to solder out of a possible four. I needn't really have done even that, but I thought it would be rather nice to have a reset switch

ZX Spectrum

Another model might have bad me soldering a resistor on to the board as well; the the case. No one with a fine soldering iron and a good light should be deterred by this. The new keyboard makes life much easier; I only envy the people who started on a SpectrumÖ and don't have bad habits to unlearn

The instructions are clear and easy to follow. They're also rather charming; opening the case of your Spectrum invalidates the guarantee, but as soon as you have a working SpectrumÖ the guarantee is graciously restored again from

In part three we had a first look at the INK and PAPER statements, using them both to change the whole screen area by using a CLS statement after them and to change limited areas by using PRINT statements afterwards. We also had an example of multiple statements on line, with colons to separate them. This brings me to the use of semi-colons as separators in PRINT statements. These useful punctuation marks allow you to put INK and PAPER statements into PRINT statements.

Enter this little program and RUN it:

100 REM play with colours 110 PAPER 4:1NK 0:CLS



PAPER for listing and to SAVE each stage of your programs painlessly. Old hat: now a new bit to add on:

140 PRINT PAPER 5;****;

RUN this, and, as you'd expect, a cyan space appears after "Hullo". After all, you have executed a PAPER statement, Now try to predict what will happen when you add the following and RUN again.

150 PRINT "Fred":

If you weren't surprised that the paper was green again, you're ahead of the class. INK and PAPER statements incorporated into PRINT statements with semicolons have only a temporary effect. EDIT line 150 to read-

150 PRINT PAPER 2; INK 6; "Fred":

and you can begin to see the possibilities. I say begin, because there are several other things you can do to modify PRINT statements in a temporary sort of way. One of these is to incorporate a FLASH statement:

2; INK 6; "Fred",

and there is Fred flashing at different sorts of information. goes to line 150, where if sS is for example to distinguish your you, if you'll pardon the expression. The number 1 after words from the computer's. "F", then PAPER becomes my heart, we'll draw things next FLASH is equivalent to saying This can make a screen full of magenta and control goes to time

"FLASHing is ON"; FLASH 0 means "'FLASHing is OFF". We'll develop that concept later in the series. In the meantime, let's move flashing Fred a httle but nearer centre on the screen. When you use a typewriter, you can start your text away from the left margin either by entering lots of spaces before the words or by using the TABulator key if your machine has one. You can do the same things with the Spectrum, and TAB is easier. Enter-

130 PRINT TAB 8,

EI

and this will move the next printed character to column 8 on the screen. Notice that although it's incorporated in a PRINT statement with a semicolon, the effect of the TAB is not lost before the next statement as INK or PAPER would be. That is, if you placed the semicolon at the end of the line. You must have noticed by now how fussy the Spectrum is about getting the right characters; this is true of all the computers I have met. I once heard someone say that schools wouldn't have to leach spelling and punctuation any more, as

information much easier to read, and can draw attention to particular items. Let's demonstrate that, and talk a little bit about words as opposed to numbers. If line 130 is overwritten by

130 INPUT "Are you Male or Female (M/F) ";sS

the S sign shows that the Spectrum wants us to put in something that doesn't have to be a number, but can be a word or a letter — in computer jargon a "string". The variable s\$ is a "string variable". Obviously, the expected answer is "M" or "F", but there is nothing to stop someone putting in a wrong letter, and a program should allow for this sort of thing. Conditional statements were touched on last week, and we need them for this -

140 IF 55 = "M" THEN PAPER 5: GOTO 170 150 IF s5 = "F" THEN PAPER 3: GOTO 170 160 GO TO 110 170 PRINT """:

See how these work. In line 140, if the condition (s\$ is the all communication would be via letter "M") is true, then the rest computers in the near future. I of the line is executed and 150 PRINT FLASH 1: PAPER wouldn't employ him as a PAPER becomes cyan and 135 s5 = sS(1)programmer, would you? 160 PRINT PAPER 5."". control transferred to line 170, All this isn't as gimmicky as which prints a space. If the you might think. You can use condition is not true, the rest of this sort of thing to highlight the line is ignored, and control

line 170 again. If sS is neither "M" nor "F" then we find ourselves at line 160 and go straight back to line 110. The program would be more "userfriendly" if we allowed for lower case as well as capital letters to be input. EDIT:

140 IF s\$ = "M" OR s\$ = "m" THEN PAPER 5: GO TO 170 150 IF sS = "F" OR sS = "f"THEN PAPER 3: GO TO 170

and add:

180 INPUT "What is your name ";inS 190 PRINT nS:****

and the program will print a name on paper that is blue(1sh) for a boy and pink(ish) for a girl as long as the user understands that only a single letter input is needed to answer questions about sex. If you don't believe that, try answering "male" when you RUN the program

To get round that one, we have to constrain the computer to look at only the first character of the string s\$. This should lead on to "string slicing", and there is time to do it but not to explain it this week:

Well, you haven't seen those graphics I promised last time, because I wanted to tell you about my upgrade kit, but cross



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BBC PROGRAM



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10REM BAD EDG (C) JOD FOR HOW 20000E7:PRINTTAB(10,2) [CHR#(141)] "BADD EGG" | PR1 NTTAB(18,3);CHR#(141);"BADD EGG"

ELA STER

P

Your Easter egg has been stolen by the killer bunnies. You must risk death to recover it in this program by Mike Roberts

G

E aster time. In this adventure for the C16, C64, or VIC 20+16k you must try and recover your egg from the lair of the killer bunnies.

Standard two-word commands are used with about 30 words understood (if you look through the program you will see some of them, but there are more).

The program comes in two parts, a file generator and the run time code. To get the program to work you need to type in program I and save it somewhere safe. Then you need



R

G

HOME COMPUTING WEEKLY 2 April 1985 Page 25



```
3860 ifs#=left#("west",a)then4880
3880 ifs$=left$("down",a)then4960
3900 ifs#=left#("up",a)then4920
3920 ifs#=left#("take",a)then4508
3940 ifs#=left#("get",a)then4500
3860 ifs$#left$("drop",a)then4200
3979 rem crd
3988 ifs#=left#("score",a)thenprint"#You have scored"int((pr/nl)#108)"%"igoto372
ю.
4040 ifa#=p#(pr)then5100
4060 ifa#=p#(pr+n1)then5100
4079 rem crd
4060 print"%Pardon, I didn't quite get that"
4100 goto3720
4119 rem clr-crd crd
4120 print" You are carrying an"
4140 f1=0+fori=1to5+ifc%(i)()0thenprinto#(c%(i))+f1=1
4160 next1#1ff1=0thenprint"Nothing"
4180 goto3720
4200 forj=1tool
4220 1fl%(pr,j)=0then4280
4240 nextj
```

D)

R

4259 rem crd 4260 print"ml cannot drop anything because there is already junk everywhere!"igo to3720 4288 fory=ltono 4308 ifv#=o#(y)then4408 4328 nexty 4339 rem crd 4340 print" No such object!"!goto3720 4360 ifv#=o#(y)then4400 4380 nexty fora=1to5 4420 ifc%(a)=ythen4480 4440 nexta 4459 rem crd 4460 print"BHow do you expect to drop it when you'renot even carrying it!"igoto3 720 4479 rem crd 4488 c%(a)=0:1%(pr,j)=yiprint*20K.*isoto3728 4500 forj=1to5 4520 ifc%(j)=0then4580 4540 nextj 4559 rem crd 4566 print"#You cannot carry any more!"!goto3720 4588 fory=ltong 4608 ifv=o=(y)then4668 4628 nexty 4638 rem crd 4640 print* No such object!*!goto3720 4660 fora=ltool 4688 if1%(pr,a)=ythen4748 4700 nexta 4718 rem crd 4720 print"Mohatever it is, it's not here!"igoto3720 4739 rem crd 4748 c%(j)=y1print*#DK.*!]%(pr.a)=8:goto3728 4758 Fem crd 4760 ifn%(pr)=0thenprint*#You cannot go north.*!goto3720 4780 pr=n%(pr)/goto3480 4799 rem crd 4806 ifs%(pr)=0thenprint"#You cannot so south."!soto3720 4828 pr=s%(pr)|goto3488 4839 rem crd 4848 ife%(pr)=0thenprint"@You cannot go east,"igoto3720 4868 pr=e%(pr)/goto3488 4979 rem crd 4888 ifu%(pr)=8thenprint*#You cannot go west,*!goto3728 4900 pr=#%(pr)|goto3480 4919 rem crd 4920 ifu%(pr)=0thenprint*#You cannot go up.*(goto3720 4940 pr=u%(pr)1goto3480 4959 rem crd 4968 ifd%(pr)=0thenprint*#You cannot go down.*!goto3720 4980 pr=d%(pr)1goto3480 5000 print* End of adventure" print print 5020 print"Press Space to restart or Return to end"Igosub5440 5040 ifa#4" "then3470 5060 ifa#=chr#(13)thenend 5080 goto5020 5100 ifa#=p\$(pr)thenzn=0 5120 ifa#=p#(pr+n1)thenzn=n1 5140 ifi%(pr+nz)=0then5220 5160 fora=lto5tifc%(a)=1%(pr+zn)then5220 5180 nexta







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S S S S S S

R

Chocky Chick is in trouble. He's hungry — but the worms are becoming radioactive. By Jon Revis

Here is an ideal opportunity to hand up your laser, give the bugeyed aliens a rest and try your hand at another pastime, eating worms! In this story you play Chocky, a common or garden chicken, scratching a living down on the farm. By eating the worms which wriggle their way up to the surface, Chocky can increase the size of its family Eat five out of 10 worms and

Variables x,y Chocky's present x, y coordinates ox,oy Chocky's previous x, y co-ordinates wf flag indicating which of two worm characters to print chick number of Chockys worm number of worms esten number of worms caten (from batch of 10) total number of worms 101 cateri. worm's present cowa,wy ordinates owx,owy worm's previous coordinates worm5(1) string array holding

you get a new Chocky.

Chocky lived happily until the day the meteorite hit the coop. Fragments of the rock embedded themselves in the ground. Next day Chocky went out to get breakfast. One particularly juicy worm was making its way up through the ground to become part of Chocky's next meal. By chance it bumped into part of the buried meteorite and was immediately transformed into a bolt of pure energy. This blast shot up through the ground and vaporised a rather surprised Chocky

The aim of the game is to cat as many worms as possible without taking that trip to the great hen house in the sky.

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2 DCM +	
4 MER 4	*
J REM # Chocky Chick	*
4 REN # by	*
3 REM # Jon Revis	*
6 REH # for	*
7 REM # Home Computing Weekly	*
B REM # Based on an original idea	*
9 REM # By Dave Carlos and Jon Revis	*
10 REM#	*
11 REM####################################	DR
12 *	
13 *	
20 MODE O	
30 BOSUB 180 REN characters	
40 BOSUB 970 + REM initialine	
50 BOSUB 760 + REM build characters	
60 BOSUB 2290 1 REM border	
70 SOSUB 2430 (REM intro	
80 80SHB 1310 + REN background	
90 EVERY 25. 2 ROCUR 1610	
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120 WEND 130 WHILE INKEYS <> "" : WEND 135 * 136 * 140 DI 150 808UB 2290 : REM border 160 808U8 2520 | REM outro 170 END 178 * 179 * 180 REM #### Characters #### 190 SYMBOL AFTER 220 200 SYMBOL 221,0,0,0,0,7,15,31,29 210 SYMBOL 222,62,63,95,95,120,112,0,0 220 SYMBOL 223, 0, 0, 0, 0, 192, 224, 224, 240 230 SYMBOL 224, 184, 112, 240, 224, 0, 0, 0, 0 240 SYNBOL 225,0,0,0,0,0,32,32,32 250 SYNBOL 226, 64, 64, 0, 0, 0, 0, 224, 161 260 BYMBOL 227, 48, 56, 12, 24, 48, 24, 12, 4 270 SYMBOL 228,0,0,0,0,176,152,136,220 280 SYMBOL 229,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,2 290 SYMBOL 230, 1, 0, 32, 32, 0, 0, 0, 0 300 BYMBOL 231, 12, 28, 48, 24, 12, 24, 48, 32 310 SYMBOL 232,64,128,0,0,0,0,0,0 320 SYMBOL 233, 0, 0, 28, 54, 55, 63, 63, 29 330 SYNBOL 234, 14, 15, 7, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0 340 SYNBOL 235, 20, 28, 0, 0, 0, 64, 192, 192 350 SYMBOL 236,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,3 360 SYMBOL 237, 0, 0, 0, 0, 160, 160, 160, 240 370 BYMBOL 238,0,0,0,8,8,0,0,2 380 SYMBOL 239, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0

390 SYMBOL 240, 28, 28, 73, 0, 8, 93, 62, 28 400 SYMBOL 241, 0, 34, 54, 127, 119, 34, 0, 0 410 SYMBOL 242, 240, 128, 162, 162, 162, 187, 129, 240 420 BYMBOL 243, 0, 0, 181, 166, 165, 181, 0, 0 430 SYNBOL 244, 0, 0, 20, 56, 4, 52, 0, 0 440 SYMBOL 245.0.8.8.6.122.72.16.0 450 SYMBOL 246,8,20,34,65,129,130,108,16 470 RETURN 480 ' 490 4 500 REM #### Construct Multi-Coloured Characers 510 as="" 520 FOR n% = 0 TO 1% 530 READ char% 540 at = at + CHR4(char%) 550 NEXT n% 568 569 570 REM ##### data for hen2# ##### 580 DATA 22,1,9,15,1,221,8,15,3,225,8,15,5,229,8,1 5, 1, 223, 8, 10, 224, 8, 15, 3, 228, 6, 15, 5, 232, 8, 8, 15, 1, 22 2, 8, 15, 3, 226, 8, 15, 5, 230, 22, 0 590 REH EXXXX data for henis XXXXX 600 DATA 22,1,15,1,233,8,15,3,235,8,15,5,238,15,1, 223, 8, 10, 224, 8, 15, 3, 237, 8, 15, 5, 232, 8, 8, 15, 1, 234, 8, 15, 3, 236, 8, 15, 5, 239, 22, 0 610 REM \$**** data for wloot \$**** 620 DATA 22,1,15,0,247,247,8,8,10,247,247,22,0 630 REM ###### data for rock\$ ##### 640 DATA 22, 1, 13, 14, 244, 8, 15, 15, 245, 8, 15, 5, 246, 22, 0 650 REM \$**** data for t\$ \$**** 660 DATA 67,72,79,67,75,89,32,69,71,71 670 REM ###### data for worm\$(0) ##### 680 DATA 22,1,15,11,227,22,0 690 REM \$**** data for worm#(1) ***** 700 DATA 22,1,15,11,231,22,0 710 REM \$**** data for eggs ***** 720 DATA 22,1,15,3,240,8,15,1,241,22,0 730 REM ###### data for worm wipe# ##### 740 DATA 15, 12, 247 141 749 750 REH ##### construct characters ##### 760 REGTORE SBO 770 1X = 43 : 808UB 500 : hen24 = 48 780 z% # 41 # 808UB 500 # hen14 = a4 790 1% = 12 | BOSUB 500 | wipet = 44 800 zX = 14 + 60808 500 + rock# = a# 810 2% = 9 : GOSUS 500 : te = at $820 \pm X = 6 \pm 80808 \pm 900 \pm 40768(0) = 48$ 830 2X = 6 + 60808 500 + worm\$(1) = a\$840 z% = 10 : 808U8 500 : eggs = as 850 zX = 2 ; 80608 500 : wip+24 = A4

RE

1118 * 1119 ' 1120 REM ##### print hen ##### 1130 CALL 18019 1140 LOCATE ox, oy 1 PRINT USING "&"; wipes 1150 CALL 48019 1160 LOCATE x,y : PRINT USING "%" | heni* 1170 or = 1 f or = 91100 RETURN 1188 * 1169 * 1190 REN ***** pecking hen ***** 1200 CALL &BD19 1210 LOCATE ox, oy : PRINT USING "&" | wipes 1220 CALL &8019 1230 LOCATE Xry | PRINT USING "&" |hen24 1240 CALL &BD19 1250 LOCATE X, Y I PRINT USING "L"; vipet 1260 CALL &8019 1270 LOCATE x, y | PRINT UBINB "%";hen18 1275 BOUND 1,800,10,15,1 1280 ox = x + oy + y 1290 RETURN 1298 1 1299 1 1300 REN ***** background ***** 1310 1 1320 = REMAIN(3)1330 HODE 0 1340 BORDER O 1350 WINDOW #1,1,20,12,25 1360 PAPER #1,12 1370 CL9 £1 1380 WINDOW 42, 16, 19, 4, 11 1390 PAPER 62,8 1400 CLB #2 1410 WINDON #3, 17, 10, 6, 9 1420 PAPER #3.2 1430 CLB #3 1440 CALL 68019 1450 LOCATE 17,7 | PRINT USING "&" (hen14 1460 CALL 18019 1470 LOCATE X.y (PRINT UBING "&"|vip+\$ 1480 K = 10 1 OR = R 1490 CALL 48019 1500 LOCATE x,y r PRINT USING "&";hen14 1510 FOR n% # 0 TO 2 1520 LOCATE TX(nX) ry(nX) : PRINT UBING "&" |rock4 1530 NEXT n% 1540 BOSUB 2090 1550 FOR n% = 10 TO 10 + (chick-1) 1560 IF chick > -1 THEN LOCATE nX+2,1 : PRINT USIN 6 "4";hen14 ELBE LOCATE n%+2,1 | PRINT USING "4";w 1005 1570 NEXT n% 1580 EVERY 25,3 GOSUB 1610

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                                                                                                                                    1598 *
868 1
                                                                                                                                    1599 *
869 ·
                                                                                                                                   1600 REM XXXXX move worm XXXXX
870 REN $**** read keyboard *****
                                                                                                                                   1610 LOCATE OWX, OWY | PRINT USING "&" | WIDE28
BBO flag = 0
890 1F NOT INKEY(71) THEN x = x = 1 = flag = 1
                                                                                                                                   1620 IF RND > 0.5 THEN WE - WE - 1 ELSE WE + WE +
900 IF x < 1 THEN x = 1
                                                                                                                                   1630 wy = wy - 1
910 IF NOT INKEY(63) THEN H = H + 1 + 1 + 1 ag = 1
                                                                                                                                   1640 CALL 58019
920 IF x > 14 THEN x = 14
930 IF NOT INKEY(18) THEN BOSUD 1200
                                                                                                                                   1650 LOCATE WX, WY & PRINT USING "&"(WORM#(Wf)
                                                                                                                                   1660 BOSUB 1770 | IF crash = 1 THEN GOEUB 1820
940 IF flag = 1 THEN GOSUB 1130
                                                                                                                                   1670 OWX = WX : OWY = WY
950 RETURN
                                                                                                                                   1680 IF NOT INKEY(18) AND WY = 12 AND (WK = # OR W
958 *
                                                                                                                                   x = x-1) THEN eater = eater + 1 | tot = tot + 1 |
959 1
                                                                                                                                   SOUND 1, 50, 10, 15
960 REM ###### initialize variables ######
                                                                                                                                   1690 IF eaten = 5 THEN BUSUB 2210
970 x = 10 r y = 10
                                                                                                                                   1700 IF wy = 12 THEN wy = 24 ( worm = worm - 1 ( B
980 ox = x r oy = y
                                                                                                                                   0.0
990 uf = 0
                                                                                                                                   1710 IF worm < 0 THEN chick = chick - 1 : worm = 9
1000 DIM worm$(1)
                                                                                                                                    a eaten = 0 a BOSUS 1310 a RETURN
1010 chick = 2 ( worm = 9
1020 tot = 0 : eaten = 0
                                                                                                                                   1720 IF wx = 13 THEN wx = wx - 1
                                                                                                                                   1730 IF wx = 1 THEN wx = wx + 1
1030 \text{ wx} = 10 \pm \text{wy} = 24
                                                                                                                                   1740 IF wf = 0 THEN wf = 1 ELBE wf = 0
1040 owx = wx + owy = wy
                                                                                                                                   1750 RETURN
1050 DIM rx(2), ry(2)
                                                                                                                                   1758 1
1060 REBTORE 1100
                                                                                                                                   1759 1
1070 FOR n% = 0 TO 2
                                                                                                                                   1760 REN $$$$$ check for worm hitting a rock $$$$$
1080 READ TX(n%), TY(n%)
                                                                                                                                   1770 FOR n% = 0 TO 2
1090 NEXT n%
                                                                                                                                   1780 IF wx = rx(nx) AND wy = ry(nx) THEN crash = 1
1100 DATA 3, 15, 5, 20, 12, 16
                                                                                                                                   1790 NEXT NX
1105 ENV 1, 5, 3, 1, 2, -3, 1, 1, 0, 10, 3, -3, 1
                                                                                                                                   1800 RETURN
1110 RETURN
```

1808 * 1809 *

 \mathbf{P}

```
1810 REM ***** redicactive worm *****
1820 "
1830 MOVE (wx#32)-16, (24-wy)#20
1840 DRAW (wx#32)-16,220,3
1850 FOR n% = 1 TO 500 + NEXT n%
1860 MOVE (wx#32)-16, (24-wy)#20
1870 DRAW (wx#32)-16,220,12
1880 LOCATE wx, wy : PRINT USING "&";wip+24
1890 LOCATE WX, WY | PRINT USING "&" ITOCKS
1895 BOUND 1, 30, 10, 15, 1, 1
1900 crash = 0 : wy = 24
1910 GOSUB 2090
1920 IF wx = x THEN GOSUB 1950
1930 RETURN
1938 !
1939 1
1940 REM ##### explode chicken #####
1950 = = REMAIN(3)
1960 FOR n% = 1 TO 50
1970 c = INT(RND(1)#16)
1980 # = INT(RND(1)#600)
1990 b = INT(RND(1) * 150)
2000 MOVE (wx#32)-16,220
2010 DRAW 4,6+220,c
2020 BOUND 1, 5, 5, 15
2030 NEXT n%
2040 chick = chick = 1
2050 worm = 9 : eaten = 0 : x = 10
2060 BOSUB 1310
2070 RETURN
2078 1
2079 1
2080 REM ***** scores *****
2090 PAPER 12
2100 PEN 5
2110 LOCATE 13, 14 ( PRINT "Worms"
2120 LOCATE 15,15 & PRINT "Eaten"
2130 LOCATE 15,15 ( PRINT jeaten
2140 LOCATE 15, 18 # PRINT "Worms"
2150 LOCATE 15,19 : PRINT "Left"
2160 LOCATE 16,20 | PRINT | WORK
2170 LOCATE 15,22 : PRINT "Total"
2180 LOCATE 16,23 ( PRINT ) tot
2190 RETURN
2198 1
2199 1
2200 REM ##### Lay Egg #####
2210 worm = 9 ; eaten = 0 ; chick = chick + 1
2220 CALL $8019
2230 LOCATE x<sub>t</sub>y t PRINT USING "k"then14
```

R

Ci

```
2240 LOCATE x+2, y+1 a PRINT USING "&" | eggs
2250 FOR n% = 1000 TO 50 STEP -50
2255 BOUND 1,n%, 5, 15
2258 NEXT nX
2260 608UB 1310
2270 RETURN
2278 '
2279 '
2280 REH ##### draw border #####
2290 MODE 0
2300 BORDER 1
2310
2320 CL9
2330 FOR n% = 1 TO 18 STEP 2
2340 LOCATE n%,1 : PRINT USING "4" | hen14
2350 LOCATE nX,24 | PRINT USING "&"|heni#
```



2390 LOCATE 18, nZ : PRINT USING "&" | hen14 2400 NEXT MX 2410 2420 REM ##### intro ##### 2430 LOCATE 4,5 (PRINT "Chocky Chick" 2440 LOCATE 5,9 1 PRINT "2 1 Left" 2450 LOCATE 6,11 : PRINT "X : Right" 2460 LOCATE 4,13 : PRINT "Enter : Peck" 2470 LOCATE 4.19 1 PRINT "Press Any Key" 2480 LOCATE 4,21 : PRINT "To Start Game" 2490 WHILE INKEYS = "" : WEND 2500 RETURN 2510 REM \$#### outro ##### 2530 LOCATE 4,5 : PRINT "Chocky Chick" 2540 LOCATE 3,10 # PRINT "Your Score Was" 2550 LOCATE 9,12 | PRINT tot 2560 LOCATE 4,19 | PRINT "Press Any Key" 2570 LOCATE 4,21 # PRINT "To Start Bame" 2580 WHILE INKEYS = "" : WEND 2600 RETURN

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HOME COMPUTING WEEKLY 2 April 1985 Page 33

Here's a real tearjerker! The bunnies are in danger, their burrow is flooding and you must save them. By Allen and Margaret Webb

aster is here again and the Easter bunnies are frohcking in the fields. But all is not well. The wicked witch has sent an unusually heavy April shower. The water is flooding the field and the bunnies must reach the safety of their burrows. Can you help guide them to safety? For every bunny you save, the good fairy will give you an Easter egg

On the screen you will see a bunny and its burrow. Using the keyboard or a joystick you must guide the bunny to the burrow. When it reaches the burrow, both will vanish and a new bunny will appear. The blue market on the left of the screen indicates the depth of flooding When it reaches its top limit, the game is over.

Three levels of difficulty are available. At the easy level, the burrow remains stationary. At higher levels, the wicked witch takes a hand and moves the burrow, making life more difficult. Easy level is best for the very young whilst the higher levels inject a little irritation

If you use the keyboard, the

10 52800 LOAD and RUN the main section. 14 \$3800

12 \$3000

are'

You should not that:

map at \$2000

extended lower case

user defined chars at

SYS 49920, SN, X, Y

SN = sprite number (0-7)

These two pieces of code

have the widest range of general

use and can make life a little

X = horizontal position

Y = vertical position

52800

syntax is:

where:

caster.

i) The routine will only

ii) To use bit map mode, you

Some example parameter values

multicolour upper case 0 1 4

hi-res bit map @\$2000 2 0 8

block 3 gives machine code to

locate a sprite on screen. The

АВС

0 0 10

0 6

function correctly with the

screen at the normal position

must move the start of

BASIC to \$4000 and use bit

Machine code routines

For those of you who are interested, I'll describe some of the machine code routines.

Block 1 contains the raster interrupt code and allows you to split the screen up into five zones. The zones are numbered 0 to 4 starting at the top of the screen. To activate the interupts. you simply use the command.

SYS 12*4096

To change a zone use the command.

SYS 49313,Z,CS,CB,A,B,C

where:

- Z = zone number (0-4)
- CS = screen colour (0-15)
- CB = border colour (0-15)
- A = 0 for normal characters 1 for extended mode 2 for bit map
- B = 0 for normal mode 1 for multicolour mode
- C = position for character setL.C.
- C Character Posn
- \$1000 (normal upper case) 6 \$1800 (normal lower case) 8 \$2000

```
IS NOT THE DRIVE
28 REP
```

```
2 HER BLOCK 1
48 853
```



following keys operate:

A moves bunny up Z moves bunny down Cursor up/down moves buiny **k**ft Cursor left/right moves bunny right.

You can alter the keys by simply changing lines 550 to 580.

If you want to use a joystick, use port 2. So joystick users don't have an advantage, the rabbit can only be moved up, down, left and right.

Entering the game is quite simple. Just type in and SAVE the two listings. The loader contains the machine code and sprite and character definitions. To ease the task of entering the data, the listing is split into seven blocks. Each block has a check sum to spot any errors. The procedure is to LOAD and RUN the data loader and then

32 PTKE 2848 192 PTKE 2841 192 POKE2842 193 POKE2843 195 POKE53286.8 498 REH BLOCK 4 200 PONET3287 1 PONE 5 288 1 PONE 53298 9 588 REN 2 8 5V349 .2 8 96 56 5V549928 1 248 65 518 DATRO2.79.196 165 20 133.172 165 21 133 173 32 79 96 165 28 173 74 528 DATRIGE 8.12 85, 196, 165 174 201 8-48 30.233 8, 133 174 169 174 145 72 227 POLET 7469 15 238 - WE "347" 3 P VET347 2 POVE53276 6 530 DATA169 6. 145 182 24 .65 172 233 39 133 172 67 173 237 2 33 73 268 120 PO'N TIR'S- SOUTHINGS 540 101000000 32 03 196 170 189 70 196 45 172 59 5 145 82 76 67 59 59 59 59 59 50 145 82 76 67 59 59 59 558 10476170 171 172 173 174 75 32 253 174 32 176 73 32 447 183 95 55 568 DATA172 198 102 24,165 173 105,212,133,183 56 278 SC NT* 378 THE FOR 1=58176 TO 58276 SOO READY POKEL X 596 TAT+X 1000 WE THE IT MENTION IN THE SERVICE ALL PARTY ALL PARTY AND ALL PARTY SHE TE TO ISSAN THENPRINT DATA ERROR IN MOCK 4" DC 618-0768 3.9 001N" # 99999999999999999999902.00099939985503F-62 MAL TE DATA 30 FRINK MOREOURUP PELOCOROPROPROPROPROPUL PO 639 REM 648 DRTAG 8 8 8 8 8 31 195 248 127 231 254 255 255 255 255 255 255 255 255 Addition and the set of the 630 DRTA253 253 253 253 253 255 254 255 255 255 254 127 254 252 53 287 92 5 2 3*2 ÷ = THE PART OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY THE PROPERTY OF THE P 22 678 DRTAB 8 97 .28 8 225 92 8 225 192 8 97 28 8 .27 128 8 258 92 8 245 698 DATA 52 8 27 .28 8 63 8 8 255 92 1 255 224 3 255 248 3 255 248 7 255 THE FOR THE TOP HET HEAT HE I HE OTHER PRINT HEAT 130 C PT& TT 2 AF T , 434 -ARNO 1 46- 5 COSHE COO PRINT M 24 NEXT 698 DATR248 7 257 248 7 255 248 3 255 248 3 255 248 * 245 224 254 8 97 - 29 200 DPTHE 225 ,52 0.225 192 0 97 129 8 127 26 8 255 192 8 .27 488 19 1000000 5 7.8 DATA.28 8 63 8 6 255 192 1 255 124 3 257 248 3 255 248 * 255 248 * 255 418 5 5 23 428 P. A. - LATT BOASTERAR FORI-STOR PORESANE ON I PORESANS4272+1 & NEXTLASA 728 DATA246 7 255 248 3 255 248 3 255 248 3 255 248 8 225 92 8 225 92 8 225 92 730 DRTA63 2 .78.128 .0 .78 168 42 .78 168 42 78 68 42 9 . 169 42 277 555555 =1 " 964 740 0878234 43 255 250 43 255 258 43 255 258 43 255 258 43 255 258 43 255 258 4 255 750 68788258 43 255 250 43 255 259 42 255 234 4 4 4 72 0 178 78 20 78 442 241 02 5VS 50.7K 565 2 1F20191HE463P 422 14 2012 H-2016 768 Streen 170, 120 2, 170 160 2 178 .68 2 74 168 2 171 60 2 191 160 2 91 4 8 778 ARE DURIED TO UP TO THE B 1 Miles, 2 174 168 2 179 168 8 .78 168 8 42 129 8 2 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 788 242 22 5 ALENDO44 THE STAP - 5 SIE F AND FRA BLE FARME DITA6.63 0 0 .27 128 0 .27 128 8 127 '26 8 43 9 8 6' 0 235 224 . 255 R . MORT TO PRESENT . - 198 DATA224 3 255 240 3 255 248 3 255 248 3 255 248 3 255 248 3 255 248 . 255 224 20" \$ "F"\$4""710"6"F"14.1" 80 1EXT 30"1448 198 DRTAB 15 248 8 15 248 8 31 224 8 63 192 8 .27 28 8 27 128 8 245 128 Ben DRTAB 255 128 1 255 128 . 255 26 1 254 8 255 8 1 244 8 7 244 8 . F & MANTE LANDER IN IT FTER BRIDEN 44 THE PLAT IT F 6+ 2 4. " 213 15 Pres 14 F 1+ P ROPE TO DERIVE -5 DATA, 255 .20 6.255.126 8 255 .29 8 255 224 8 255 2.4 * 287 25 92 530 PDKE2842 194 688 5V8 49928 2 RX RV 8V5 56472'18 38008 DALA DULL 618 POKE2042 133 LF PEEK(\$3278340 8 -8 THEN 728 6.0 3010442 READ X: POINTLX 630 DOSUBLING PSKELDERE PRINTERBORTTKELLED TEACLE DONET FOR HATOT HERE THAT HERE 10 15 243 0 " F = 2 P = 5"-E-648 IT TOSSITIS THEN PRINT'ERROR IN SPRITE DATA" DO 648 Star retained NER REM WAR THE UNDERTHING AS & WIR COLLECTED HET EDOST AND REP CHARACTERS 6"2 PO - " BOX TRITES' WERESS NOW KEY TO RESTART" REP REP ene plan inter place ne ale alexit roe rettig inter men de DATA248,248 248 224 224 52 128 8 255 255 255 255 255 257 352 92 254 1000 DRTA252 248 248 192 0 0 8 8 . 3 14 3. 127 .27 244 8 128 92 248 248 1818 DATA254 254 255 139 223 255 254 245 254 254 254 8 8 8 8 2 7 3, 63 244 1.0 2+0 ·E+2 PF * 7 1.1* 30 1828 DATAS & 68 .27 255 255 255 255 6 8 8 352 248 252 254 255 8 8 8 8 728 FOKE73278 B THE F RE READ THERE WATE WE RECEIPT BUT DO THE POINT OF T 1848 DMTAG4 36 8 42 28 136 8 12 37 38 8 8 255 244 248 4 424 8 8 8 245 22 748 3070442 THE - FT _K7 13 REN FORJ- HITO197 PRE2843 J FORK- TO68 HENT HENT PREM3269.9 160 F.A 113 513 78432 88 300884.4 928 POKE2843 1544 HENT FORD-17058 HENT 1050 DATA14 248 9 8 1 8 255 8 245 8 2 55 8 2555 8 255 8 255 8 255 8 255 8 255 8 255 8 255 8 255 8 255 1060 DATAB & 215 6 8 8 8 8 8 8 255 6.2 8 8 198 48 .6 2 8 24 24 24 24 24 24 1070 201024 24 0 192 240 60 11 %, 40 96 8 8 8 8 8 2 11 192 64 8 8 8 8 10 바이는 한 노동가들은 한. 1000 DR*A52 205 15 0 0 0 72 90 44 135 84 42 78 203 17 244 90 53 222 84 215 186 POKE2243 195 THE DOSLINGE HENEYS PORE1834-HE 376 PORE55306-HE.7 0010448 1098 DATA. 72 2.8 79 156 213 234 13 2 3 3 3 3 5 58 42 120 129 29 29 1.06 DATR192 64 . 64 68 4 .30 30 16 17 22 23 .3 25 249 .44 231 249 .33 1.52 mail 11 mg 8 8 24040 \$1.7 8. 57 8001 91. 57. 838 1.18 DATRISS .53 215 214 255 214 214 6 6 6 6 48 24 24 8 6 6 6 8 8 48 1.20 DATR24 24 12 12 103 63 3 6 101 264 2 6 2 6 115 224 8 6 9 8 8 8 6 6 6 #28 IF ASS(RX-KO)(78"-ID-618 630 PC/E 53289 CO(B/0(1)45+1) 548 \$45 49928 3.100 IN SVE 49928 2 RX RV PORE53269.13 912 PET 64 6-2 57 442 610 5 5 294296 005081100 1170 T-0 FORIAL1264 TO 11655 1100 READ X: POKELJX -PRINTING (\$ > PRESENT PRINT SHOW aso FR 4" BHR "AT I' R + M ASSOC RTES" 1.98 THT+X NEXT NO PP ... 1288 IFTCHAILER THENPRINT'EPRCH IN CHARACTER DATE: END . JA18 MEN 0.00 1228 REP COPY DOWN SOME CHANNELENS **924** 22 ST # 44 E # # # # # # . . 230 PER 1240 POKE16334 PEEK 36234 / PHD254 POKE PEEK 4/025 948 PRINT 3 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 . . 1250 FORI-0701023 POKE1-10248 PEEX+1-53246 HEA" 1260 POKEL-PEEK(2)0R4 9 8 7 14 48 37 PORE2842+1 RND 1 42+199 HE/T 1270 POKE56334 PEEK 5633420R1 922 512 421 7 1200 REM 496 DH, " BUT 1 415 TECHTIRCHISTHEN998 1290 REM HC BATH BLOCK 5 .240 PTKE53287+1 T 5Y5 5843. 1 8HC . 010000-30000 HEXT 1366 REM 18 8 18" 6 IF SH THELSTE 1510 DATA169 0 141 4 212 141 11 212 145 .8 2.2 .69 15 .41 24 2.2 69 8 145 1213 MALLS MALLS I FOR ICUSTICE OF A FOR KEVEDARD 1320 DATA23 212 169 8 141 5 2.2 169 248 4, 6 2'2 32 199 173 72 2.7 189 165 1338 DATA28.72 165 21 72 32 253 174 32 .98 73 32 247 53 84 33 96 .84 1830 DE' & F. B. RUT SU HATNEN 830 242 THE F & JTHER TH 1348 DATA133 35 5 56 248 33 165 28 .66 21 141 8 2 2 42 . 2.2 59 17 .41 THE PENT DART LE ELT ENERS. THERETRY HANDREDT 1358 DMTA4 212 32 .79 238 165 55 .98 95 .78 208 245 .96 94 .65 95 201 255 2002 LET'S TO BO E AND SU HTAND SCHTTMENEDGE 1368 DRTR208 230 169 8 .4. 4 212 96 255 1378 THE FOR 1+58432 TO 58532 1890 PRINT'T GOSULLER METURA 1388 REND X: POKET N LER OTHE B' . C TEL . PTVETOS & SYSCERE RETURN 1394 THTHK NEXT AS THE HETCH EVENING I I I I BE A 12 YEAR PARENTER & RETURN 1400 IF TO12622 THIN PELITTERROR IN SATA BLOCK ST ... IS THE MET OF LERS 3 1 15 15 B. P. 18 HEAT PORESIZES & RETURN 1128 x-9 FORM2706 000 T 802 PC XT 23 HENT 1 30 ANAS FORWARDT GOSCILESS PRIME T NEXT 1.42 1 20 1 12 -0.444-PG 1 4252 HV4 25-5-5 10430 10 RET 1.52 14 A21 AX-HOIL 78 HELL 58 28 REM RABBYTES 1178 5-549522 3 HU P* RETURN 38 REM (C)1985 A + H ASSOCIATES 1.30 CL B 8 545493 3 3 1 1 0 0 .8 54549313 4 1 1 0 0 10 42 RE11 1 98 PE.NTT SO REP MRITTEN SPECIALLY FOR HOM 200 F.F #2127 54949920 1 76+1030 100 MDT 58 REN. 14 2 FTE -8107 PTY12848+1 RND - 13+198 HEXT *8 POKE 56, 40 CLR 005UI 878 1228 PD - 1245 100 98 PATA .06 32-116 98 FOR 1+8102 REPORTED NEVT 148 POKE 53269 255 POKET3277 8 POKE53271 8 POKE53276 8 RETURN 100 PCME 650-120 110 DATA 8,1,8,9.15 120 FORTHINDS FERE CONTY HEAT 130 545 495.2 8 6 6 8 8 18 148 575 493.3 1 14 14 8 8 18 156 SVS 49313 2 3 3 8 8 18 168 \$45 49313 3 5 7 8 8 18







Mel Paszkowski reviews the Merlin Database and Scribe. Read on to find out why he was impressed

This sort of package is a serious offering which, for the price, offers quite a lot of sophisticated features. You should ask yourself, therefore, whether you would use them The money alone should make you think pretty carefully.

The minimum requirements, apart from your BBC computer, are a disc drive and a printer. For some of the wordprocessing work a 'proper' monitor is recommended because there is an option to work with 80 characters across I used one drive and found it tedious transferring from system disc to datadisc whilst working on the database — not quite so bad with Scribe, the word processor.

The big question is, what do you get for your money? An impressive, elongated, video style box containing two systems discs, a Data/Scribe chip and fitting instructions, two manuals and a function key strip. My review copy didn't contain two program options but a covering letter explained these were not essential and would be sent in a few weeks time¹

work with 80 characters across I used one drive and found it tedious transferring from system disc to datadisc whilst working on the database — not for a Philip's screwdriver!

Starting in familiar territory I chose the word processor. It's accessed by the shift/break keys and immediately gives the main menu. Once the program has an idea of the size of your proposed document it creates space on the disc and tells you how many pages are available. If you're re-writing War and Peace, you would be expected to write in sections and merge the documents later.

Once on the edit page it becomes plain sailing. A status line at the top keeps you informed as to where you are in the document and how much space is left. A prompt line is left blank for occasional instructions and messages. A third line corresponding to the humber of characters chosen in dashes shows tabs or margins set.

Editing seemed straightforward and on-screen



the utilities to be sent later.

There are two ways of getting printed information from the database. The first is by the Report Writer which allows you to compile a program to create a document, a relatively complex procedure. The manual excuses itself by saying it is "Provisional" and therefore only gives a brief outline. For this reason it is far simpler to use Scribe through the Mail Merge facility. This, quite simply, allows you to write a document and have any of the fields included by using the field label preceded and followed by the '33' sign

I liked the system. It offered the sort of integration that made life easy. Menus were complimentary and screen prompts easy to follow. Good value for the scrious user both for writing and storing information. Its many features allow you to compare it with virtually any commercial standards.

Price: £95

Publisher: Merlin Computer Products (Bucon Ltd)

Address: 35/36 Singleton St. Swansea SRI 3QN

formatting is through function keys. You can set tabs, underline, centre and adjust both margins at any stage¹

A particularly useful function is Search and Replace, enabling you to define a string, which can be a word or phrase, and replace it with something else.

Printing is arranged via another menu which supports serial or parallel types. If serial, you have the option to change the baud rate. Here, amongst the list of options, you can set automatic page numbering, the printing of a header and footer or re-define characters by inserting printer codes. All of these can be saved with the document

Back at the main menu, a

utilities option will allow system calls, a word count, extract and expand pages of the document and much more

I found Scribe easy to use. A credit to the user friendliness of the system and the well explained manual.

The Database was not quite so easy and I depended very much on the manual which after two days of reading began to fail apart!

The essential point is that this program loads an index into RAM each time a database is accessed which makes sorting and searching virtually instantaneous. On creating your database you therefore have the option of defining up to eight conditional indexes and altering them at any time. When you initiate a search you choose

your index and view the results,

Some careful thought must go into planning and defining the Key Fields. These will affect the sorting routines and their positioning on the original layout will determine priorities Size is another important factor as you are limited by disc space. When your database has been defined you learn how many records you will be able to create on the allocated disc. There is always a trade-off between record size and record number but a record can be up to four pages in length each containing 920 characters.

Time spent on small scale experiments is well worth it before embarking on major projects. I found I had created too many key fields and sorting was somewhat chaotic using indexes. R disc sort is to be provided but that was one of



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This week Peter Green shows how to Implement various loop structures, in Part 2 of our series on converting programs between different BASICs

For a long time most computers | loop and REPEAT tests it at had a BASIC which was either written by Microsoft, or followed their lead in the conventions for keywords, Standard Microsoft BASIC was a fairly conservative language, and the only implicit looping structure was the FOR-NEXT-STEP construction. With the **BBC** machine and the Oric-1 came the more exotic REPEAT-UNTIL loop, and now Amstrad has arrived with the even more useful WHILE-WEND loop. Yet with a bit of self-restraint in the use of GOTO and some thought, even the earliest BASIC computer could have had these useful features even though the actual keywords weren't present. We'll see how later on

FOR the NEXT time

The FOR-NEXT loop is pretty standard and should work unaltered on any machine. However, Amstrad BASIC has a alight peculiarity. Consider Examle 1. This is a loop in which some operation has to be performed on all five items in an array, say, except for the third.

Normally it is very bad practice to have more than one NEXT for a given FOR, because you can't know which NEXT would end the loop and so program flow is unknown never a good idea! In this case the 'internal' NEXT of line 20 cannot end the loop (it changes i from 3 to 4 which is less than the end value of 5) so you can get away with it However, Amstrad BASIC will give an 'Unexpected NEXT' error because it pairs up FOR-NEXT keywords and allows no extras. The solution is easy: change line 20 to "IF i = 3 THEN GOTO 40". One other aside is the use of FOR-NEXT delay loops. You'll have to experiment with the values in the loop to duplicate the same timing period, since all BASICs run at different speeds.

the end. So a REPEAT loop is always executed at least once, but a WHILE loop can be bypassed if the condition isn't true.

Example 1

10	FOR 1=1 TO 5
20	IF 1=3 THEN NEXT
20	REM 44 Some routine
40	NEXT
50	PRINT"finished"

Example 2

1000 1010 1020 1100 1110	REPEAT routine UNTIL x>5 rest of program
1000	

	near a market the star of the
1010	routine
1020	
1100	WEND
1110	rest of program

Second, MWHILE loop is executed as long as the condition is TRUE: a REPEAT loop is executed as long as the condition is FALSE. So you can swap from one type to the other (i.e. REPEAT-UNTIL on the Beeb or Oric to WHILE-WEND on the Amstrad, or vice-verse) provided you are certain that the always-once/ sometimes-never difference doesn't matter or can't anse (this may not be easy to decide from an examination of the source listing). How? Simply use the other type of loop and invert the condition — see Example 2, which shows exactly equivalent loops, provided x is always less than or equal to 5 on loop entry. If x is sometimes greater than 5 on entry, the REPEAT loop still runs once but the WHILE loop is skipped, here you need to use the GOTO constructions explained below. Condition inversion is simple in the examle given, and



Play it again, Sam REPEAT-UNTIL and WHILE-WEND have two basic differences. First, WHILE tests the condition at the start of the

Example 3

1000 MHILE x>10 AND x<20 AND (b=3 mm ax>97)

1000 UNTIL NOT (x>10 AND x<20 AND (b=3 (R a<>97))

for anything other than the simplest condition it's easier and quicker to put brackets round the whole thing and use NOT, as in Example 3.

(Remember NOT(TRUE) is FALSE and vice versa.) This avoids any errors of logic (particularly easy with mixed ANDs and ORs), and anyway, why shouldn't the computer do all the hard work?

Examples 4, 5 and 6 show how GOTO can be used to duplicate exactly the action of WHILE and REPEAT: and consequently how these types of loop can be used on, any computer which runs BASIC. they hardly require any explanation from me: in Example 4 the program keeps

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A Contraction

N

jumping back to the start of the loop if NOT (condition) is TRUE, i.e. UNTIL condition is TRUE. Then NOT (condition) is FALSE and the program drops through to line 110 as required.

In Example 5 the program keeps jumping back from line 110 to the start, where the condition is tested. As long as it is TRUE the loop routine is executed again. Once it is FALSE, then NOT (condition) becomes TRUE and the program jumps over the loop routine to continue execution at line 1110. Note that it is quite possible that the condition is FALSE from the beginning, so the loop will not be executed at all, just like the WHILE-WEND type.

Example 6 shows how computers like the Spectrum, which allows computed GOTOs (i c GOTO expression), can use the facility as a reminder as to what's going on. Beware, though - if you have nested loops (one inside another) you need to use different variables for each loop (e.g. repeat), repeat2 a so on). Otherwise the program will 'forget' where the outer loop is because the innerone will change the variable value. Also, renumbering is out (Beeb owners please note) because the jumps will now be to the wrong lines.

GOTO Jail?

Oops - run out of space again We'll have to look at strings next time.

Example 4

1000 REPEAT 1010 routine 1020 . . . 1100 UNTIL condition 1110 rest of program 1000 REM ++ this line unnecessary 1010 routine 1020 . . . 1100 IF NOT (condition) THEN GOTO 1010 1110 rest of program

Example 5

1000 WHILE condition 1010 routine 1020 . . . 1100 WEND 1110 rest of program

1000 IF NOT (condition) THEN GDTU 1110 1010 routing 1020 . . . 1100 GOTO 1000 1110 rest of program

Example 6

1000 repret=1000 1010 routine 1020 . . . 1100 IF NOT condition THEN GOTO repeat 1110 rest of program

1000 wend#1110:IF NOT condition THEN BOTD wend 1010 routine 1020 . . . 1100 BOTO 1000 1110 rest of program

Programs are always supplied on cassette and are accompanied by full details of the program variables, how the program works and any hints on conversion you can offer. Please type these details double spaced. Listings are helpful but not essential. What is vital is that the programs should be completely error free, so please double check.

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This week Shingo Suigura shows you how to combine characters to Increase detail

s you have probably realised, a single charac-Ier is pretty small and in order to get any detail, you need to join several together. For example, take a look at the van in fig.t and define the front half as character 224 and the back as character 225 in the usual fashion. If you type: PRINT CHR\$224CHR\$225 < RETURN >, you find the van is in the correct form. Therefore, in order to move the van from right to left on row 10, we can modify the program given in part 3 to

10MODE1 20FOR X = 38 TO 2 STEP-1 30PRINT TAB (X.10) CHR\$224CHR\$225 40FOR A = 0 TO 100:NEXT 50PRINT TAB(X,10)** ** 60NEXT

As you would expect, the van moves correctly. However, it isn't exactly very meaningful to have a van as CHR\$224CHR\$ 225. If only you could give characters meaningful names as you can variables. In fact, you can! If we want to call the van something devastatingly original like "van", type:

and Y co-ordinates of the bottom character by adding one to the Y co-ordinate

This works but means you must always print the characters with a TAB statement. How do we use the labeling technique we used for the van? We can make use of some of the control codes (characters from 0 to 31). There are several which allow you to move the cursor about relative to its position rather than TAB which allows you to move it to an absolute position. What we want to do is print the top half (by now the cursor has advanced to the next character on the same line), move the cursor down one line and move it back one character and then finally print the bottom half. The control codes are CHR58 and CHR\$10 respectively. Now, to label the whole space shuttle as "shuttle", type:

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van\$ = CHR\$224 + CHR\$225

Now, type:

PRINT vanS

The above method works well for characters which are in a horizontal line, but lots of them consist of characters on top of each other. Take the space shuttle in fig 2 for example You can make it out of two characters. First define characters 224 as the top half of the shuttle and the bottom half as character 225 in the usual way. Now type PRINT CHR\$ 224;CHR\$225 《 RETURN 》. The top and bottom are next to each other, which isn't particularly good. You might think that you could have the X and Y coordinates for the top character and calculate the X PRINT shuttles

shuttle\$ = CHR\$224 + CHR\$8 + CHR\$10+CHR\$225

Now type:



In the first of a series Brian Jones deals with the basics of BASIC

elcome to the wonderworld of BASIC BASIC is the most commonly used computer language in the world, not because it's a specially good language; it isn't quick, it doesn't use the computer efficiently, it's not a language that encourages good programming style. So, why is it so popular?

There are two main reasons it's easy to learn the basics and you get results quickly: it was the first of its type, or at least the first to get established

Back in the days of value computers, the language FORTRAN (formula translation language) was all the rage, It was a language for mathematicians and scientists, specialised solving in complicated equations and doing longwinded calculations. it could take hours, sometimes days, to give all the answers, but that was due to the speed of the computers not the language Sometimes it was obvious from the first few answers that there was either an error in the data, or the logic in the program was wrong, or something was going to make the rest of the answers a waste of time. Of course, if the person who supplied the data had seen those i first answers he or she would probably have been able to save abandon the run, but usually only computer operators were allowed near computers, and they weren't to know Clearly, a system where the computer gave some answers then waited to be fed more data would have advantages. As computers got faster this idea. became practical and at Dartmouth College in the United States, Thomas Kurtz and John Kemeny designed a language able to do just that

Enter BASIC — Beginners Allpurpose Symbolic Instruction Code. Do you get the feeling that they decided on the initials BASIC first, then worked out what it could sland for? Actually their main concern was to produce a language which was very easy to learn and get programs working very quickly. The two-way communication between computer and user was a bonus. The ability of a tanguage to stop in the middle. of a program and await further instructions or data is known as being interactive

Thus first version of BASIC was fairly basic! People soon realised the potential and started adding the features they thought were missing. The result is that there are many versions of the language, 1'll be primarily concerned with the version Commodore used for the 84 (and VIO-20). However, since this version is not among the most sophisticated, most of the information will be applicable to other microcomputers. In the case of the Commodore 16, all the programming commands will work. There are just a lot of other commands which won't be mentioned. The information will differ most between machines where the keyboard and entering and editing programs are concerned so I will deal with this first. First a tour of the keyboard Most of the keys are laid out exactly like a typewriter keyboard. However, unlike a typewriter, they normally produce capitals not lower case. Turn on and try it. Would you prefer lower case? Look at the two keys at the bottom left corner of the keyboard. There's a key with the Commodore logo on it - referred to as the Commodore Key, Next to it is a "shift" key. Press both at once and see the effect — magic! Press them together a few more times and you see the display thp from lower case mode to capitals mode and back, that's the Commodore flip!

Individually these keys enable you to display the Commodore graphics characters which appear on the front of each key. This does assume that you are in capitals mode but hold down one or the other and press a few keys and see what you get. Now do the Commodore flip a few times again. I love the way the letters look as though they are doing press-ups!

Make sure you've got graphics characters from both the Commodore key and the shift key and watch the Commodore flip carefully. Notice something? While the characters generated by the shift key swop from capitals to graphics and back, those from the Commodore key don't. Well, there are a couple of exceptions; can you find them?

The other keys you'll be using quite a bit are the cursor keys. They're at the bottom right of the main keyboard. The cursor is that little flashing square which indicates where your typing will appear. You can move it around with the two cursor keys. When the shift key is held down it goes up or left, depending on which key you press. Without the shift it goes down or right. Note -- if instead of moving, the cursor leaves strange characters, don't panic — I'll explain what's happening next week, Just hold down a shift key and press the key labelled "RETURN". Now it will move as promised. The screen probably looks a mess by now, so let's clear it Hold down a shift key and press the key marked "CLR HOME". There you are a clean sheet. If you hadn't held down the shift key, the cursor would have popped to the top left corner of the screen, where it is now, without clearing anything. This position is called "home". Right, that's prepared the ground, but let me leave you with a couple of bits of homework Use the graphics and cursor keys to produce a continuous line from the home position diagonally to where it touches the bottom of the screen and then draw a big noughts and crosses board in the middle of the screen



Whoops !

The machine code listings for right and up were left out of David Ellis's Amstrad feature. How to Draw. published in HCW 104. Here we reprint the missing codes. Our apologies to all

Channel 5? That's oddl

i was recently playing Tony Crowther's new game Gryphon, from Ouicksilva. I had played it about five times and each time I checked the hi-score chart.

When I pressed the function keys a strange thing happened. It looked as if my TV set was tuning itself in to Channel 5. But there is no channel 5, I hear you say. Exactly, there isn't; it's David Morton, Walverhampton

Tony Crowther's joke. Not very funny because twice I turned my computer off and reloaded the game before I realised!

It looks very realistic with unes flashing across the screen which then turn into a testcard of channel 5. If you ever have the misfortune to suffer this all you have to do is press the N key and the title screen will start again.

Listing 1. Machine code listing for right and up

		1	Right
Address	Maemonic	Op Lodes	Comment
&832E &8331 &8333 &8335 &8335 &8335 &8335 &8335 &8335 &8335 &8335 &8335 &8335	CALL 838C CP 2 JR NZ &833A CALL &8295 JR &833F CALL &829B LD D,H LD D,H LD F,L LD HL.0 CALL BBF9 RET	CD 8C 83 FE 2 20 5 CD 95 82 18 5 CD 9B 82 54 51) 21 0 0 CD F9 BB C9	 subject to set plotting colour Are there 2 parameters? No colour specified HL = Colour DE = no. of pixels miss the next part HL = no. of pixels transfer contents of HE to DE HL = vertical movement Let 9 subroutine to draw a line done
&8146 &8149 &8148 &834D &8350 &8350 &8351 &8352 &8354 &8357 &835A &835A	CALL 838C CP 2 JR NZ &8354 CALL 8295 PUSH DE POP HL JR &8357 CALL &829B ED DE 9 CALL BBF9 RET	CD 8C 83 FE 2 20 7 CD 95 82 D5 E1 18 3 CD 9B 82 F1 8 0 CD F9 B8 C9	 t ρ subject to set plotting colour Are there 2 parameters? No colour specified HL = colour. DE = no. of pixels another method of transferring registers DE to HI must the next instruction HL = no. of pixels DE = horizontal movement i.e. θ subromine to draw a line issue

Amswer back

I must say that we read the tetters from D Harman, R Kavanagh and D Black (HCW 101) with incredulity. As reviewers for HCW we feel that some facts should be explained. When we receive a game for review, we are asked to play it and to assess our opinion of it. We are not expected to compare it to other versions on other machines (in fact it would be grossly unfair to do so).

Inevitably, we mentally compare it to other software for the same computer, but then again, don't we all? You can't assess any piece of softwae in total isolation, but on the other hand, you can't compare versions for two different machines.

Consider an alternative scenario. Imagine that a reviewer gives a solid gold rave review of a game and



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